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County To Spotlight Infrastructure Priorities During Rural Municipalities Convention

County Council will invest time during the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Convention next week to advocate on several key infrastructure projects to Provincial Government ministers.

“The County of Grande Prairie continues to stress how crucial it is to twin Highway 40, including a new bridge over the Wapiti River, as soon as possible,” says Reeve Leanne Beaupre. “Ever increasing traffic volumes on this roadway add to mounting safety concerns. Upgrading Highway 40 is also a significant economic development priority to further develop existing industry and help advance the Tri-Municipal Industrial Partnership initiative.”

Engineering work by Alberta Transportation is underway. Twinning of the highway remains unfunded by the provincial government. Councillors will raise the concern with ministers and staff during the conference and have a meeting with Transportation Minister Brian Mason in December.

The twice yearly gathering of rural municipalities runs Nov. 19-22 in Edmonton. The event features a variety of learning sessions and election of association officials.

Proceeding with Highway 40X construction, the completion of Highway 43X and addressing safety concerns with the intersection of Highways 733 and 43 at Bezanson are also on the County’s list of roadway advocacy efforts.

Replacement of the Beaverlodge Hospital remains a top concern for the County and the municipality and Council is seeking answers from Health Minister Sarah Hoffman.

“The Beaverlodge Hospital is the oldest health facility in the province and it’s vital that we hear direction from the province on when construction will begin,” Reeve Beaupre says. “A new hospital is a much-needed facility for residents of the Town and the area, tying into the future regional hospital.”

County representatives will also seek ongoing provincial support for the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum in a meeting with Ricardo Miranda, Minister of Culture and Tourism. The County owns the museum building and contributes annually to its operating budget.

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