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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Province, County to share cost of Highway 724 paving project

Thanks to a new cost-sharing agreement between the Province of Alberta and the County of Grande Prairie, a nearly 10 km stretch of gravel road on Highway 724 north of the Hamlet of La Glace will be paved.

The project will include base paving from Highway 59 to the County limits for a cost of \$8 million, which includes engineering design, land acquisition, utility relocation, environmental compensation, and construction. The Government of Alberta will contribute 75 per cent of the cost, which amounts to approx. \$6 million. The County is responsible for 25 per cent of the cost, to a maximum of \$2 million.

“Alberta’s Recovery Plan is investing in strategic projects in communities across our province to put Albertans back to work and build lasting projects that will make life better. Paving this section of Highway 724 will make travel along this route safer and improve the efficiency of considerable industrial activity from our trucking, oil, and gas sectors. Thank you to the County of Grande Prairie, whose work with Alberta’s government has got the ball rolling to get this done and get folks back to work.”

Ric McIver, Minister of Transportation

Designed to improve long-term traffic safety and efficiency on Highway 724, this project is part of the more than \$10 billion infrastructure spending announced as part of the Government of Alberta’s Recovery Plan. This spending includes: \$6.9 billion Budget 2020 capital spending, \$980 million accelerated for Capital Maintenance and Renewal, \$150 million for Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program and water infrastructure projects, \$600 million in strategic infrastructure projects, \$500 million in municipal infrastructure and \$1.5 billion for Keystone XL.

“We are pleased to be partnering with the Province to advance priority transportation projects in our region,” said Leanne Beaupre, County of Grande Prairie Reeve. “Having this stretch of highway paved will enhance the safety of everyone using it, including our residents, local businesses, and industry. This project will also help encourage continued economic and community development in our region, which will help us realize our goals of building a vibrant and prosperous community, as identified in our 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan.”

The project will include preparing the grade, applying two layers of base gravel, and paving it. Construction is anticipated to be completed in late 2021.

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