

Mayor Kicks-Off 2006 Construction Season

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Mayor Dave Bronconnier officially kicked off the 2006 construction season in Calgary today on the site of the GE5 Project at Glenmore Trail and Elbow Drive SW.

The GE5 Project is the largest and most complex interchange project ever undertaken in the city. In addition to the road improvements and the construction of retaining walls, relocations, removals and enhancements of utilities are being done simultaneously. These activities all contribute to the considerable logistics management required for this project. To date, approximately 300,000 cubic metres of dirt have been removed from the site, allowing for the current installation of the girders for the Elbow Drive Bridge which will open to traffic in the fall 2006. So far GE5 is on schedule for completion in 2007, and is also within 10% of its original budget, which is not easy in today's market.

"Significant progress has been made on the GE5 Project since the Premier and I officially opened the Stage 1 detour in November 2005, leaving very little evidence of the former intersection located here. This project sets the stage for what is gearing up to be one of the busiest construction seasons ever experienced in the city of Calgary. Transportation infrastructure improvements continue to be our number one priority," said Mayor Bronconnier.

Calgary projects, as well as all others across the province, continue to face the challenges of constantly increasing construction costs and shortages of both labour and materials.

"Construction will be everywhere in Calgary this year. In addition to the 14+ major projects we have on the go, projects of various sizes will be going on in every quadrant of the City. Our advice is for drivers to be patient and drive with care in all construction zones, as we work to improve our transportation network," said Ian Norris, Director, Transportation Infrastructure.