

Marquis of Lorne Tr S.E./22X Bridge Opening Over the Bow River

September 28, 2007

(Calgary) - The Marquis of Lorne Trail S.E./22X Bridge over the Bow River opened today on budget and ahead of schedule. Mayor Dave Bronconnier and Transportation Infrastructure Director, Ian Norris were onsite to announce the opening with Province of Alberta MLA's The Honorable Cindy Ady (Calgary Shaw), Art Johnston (Calgary Hays) and Craig Cheffins (Calgary Elbow). Local Aldermen Linda Fox-Mellway (Ward 14), Ric McIver (Ward 12) and Diane Colley-Urquhart (Ward 13) were also in attendance to show their support.

"On a section of road that's seen a lot of accidents, drivers will now have a safer and less stressful commute through this stretch of highway," Mayor Bronconnier stated. "This addition to south Calgary will benefit commuters and also those drivers transporting goods into and out of our city. We're very excited about the progress that's been made."

Partially funded by The Government of Alberta, the new bridge adds two lanes designated for westbound traffic. Eastbound traffic will use the two lanes on the old bridge. Before today, vehicles merged from two lanes into one as they approached the Bow River. In a section of highway that sees more than 31,000 daily motorists, this extra space hasn't come soon enough.

"The new bridge will alleviate long waits currently experienced during peak hours by Calgarians," explained Transportation Infrastructure Director, Ian Norris. "We're very happy with the way this bridge turned out. It's ahead of schedule, on budget and there was minimal to no impact on traffic during construction."

Mayor Dave Bronconnier was also encouraged by the progress. "As Calgary continues to grow it's essential to have the appropriate infrastructure. I can see by our progress we're well on our way."

Once the two lanes of westbound traffic are diverted onto the new bridge late Friday afternoon, traffic lines will be marked on the old bridge. The process will take a few hours to complete with both bridges fully open by late Friday evening.

Special consideration was given to design and construction of the bridge over this environmentally sensitive area. For example, all construction was completed within the allowable in-stream periods so not to disrupt the trout population during spawning season. Also, the bridge has a smaller environmental footprint than the original bridge as it only has two piers in the Bow River instead of three.