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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

NEW BUILDING CANADA FUNDING FOR KAMLOOPS HIGHWAY PROJECT

KAMLOOPS — The governments of Canada and British Columbia are pleased to announce \$42.8 million in funding for a highway project near Kamloops, British Columbia under the Building Canada infrastructure Plan.

“This announcement shows that the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia are working together effectively to help move people and goods in British Columbia,” said the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety. “This funding will not only help promote economic development in this province but will contribute to the safety and efficiency of the highway system in British Columbia and the National Highway System as a whole.”

This project consists of upgrading a 10.5 kilometre, 2-lane segment of the Trans-Canada Highway running through the Monte Creek to Pritchard area, 30 kilometres east of Kamloops. The upgrading to 4 lanes will bridge the gap between two existing 4-lane sections.

Of the total cost of the project, \$42.8 million, approximately \$16.7 million is being provided from the Building Canada Fund, a key component of the plan, and approximately \$26.1 million is being provided from the Province of British Columbia.

“The Government of Canada is committed to improving transportation safety. Highway 1 has long been identified as a priority for upgrades, and this investment will complement the other important highway improvements that have been announced since the signing of the Building Canada agreement in B.C.,” said Betty Hinton, MP for Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo.

“This priority project reflects our government’s commitment to infrastructure investments and fosters a stronger economy and a cleaner environment,” said the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. “As part of Building Canada, we are investing in infrastructure that enhances safety, improves the flow of goods and people across the country, reduces congestion and cuts commuting times.”

“This project is an excellent symbol of our strong partnership with the federal government on key infrastructure projects across the province,” said the Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure of British Columbia. “These Trans-Canada Highway upgrades will improve traffic flow, safety and efficiency through this important corridor, benefiting local residents, commercial traffic, and tourists.”

“Converting this segment of the Trans-Canada Highway to 4 lanes will greatly enhance traffic flow,” said the Honourable Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson and Minister

of Small Business and Revenue of British Columbia. “Having a continuous four lane highway will benefit all vehicles travelling through the area, increasing safety and reducing delays.”

“Expanding this stretch of highway will ensure safe and efficient travel for commercial transport through the area,” said Claude Richmond, MLA for Kamloops. “This project addresses the growth in passenger vehicle and heavy truck traffic through this corridor, preventing future traffic congestion.”

Federal funding for this project comes from the Building Canada Fund under the \$33-billion Building Canada plan. Funding approval is conditional upon the Province of British Columbia completing an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and undertaking federal aboriginal consultations pursuant to Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*.

Through its unprecedented Building Canada plan, the federal government will provide long-term, stable and predictable funding to help meet infrastructure needs across Canada. Building Canada will support a stronger, safer and better country. On November 6, 2007, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia signed an Infrastructure Framework Agreement under Building Canada worth \$2.2 billion for infrastructure projects from 2007 to 2014.

For more information on the Building Canada plan, please visit www.buildingcanada.gc.ca.

A backgrounder with further information is attached.

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