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# *Background*

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## **ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR BATTLEFORDS-LLOYDMINSTER AREA IN 2010**

### **Highway 40**

On-road construction began in May and was completed this fall on a 102-km stretch of Highway 40 from the Alberta-Saskatchewan border to about 16 km west of the Battlefords. Work included paving the entire segment, some road widening and building turning lanes at Grid 675 west of Neiburg.

Construction also began in July to replace a 30-metre-long bridge on Highway 40 over Cutknife Creek, about 32 km west of the Battlefords.

Because of this recent work, Highway 40 can now carry year-round primary weights all the way from the Alberta-Saskatchewan border to Prince Albert. Primary weight access means shippers can haul the maximum legal weight, resulting in a cost savings when trucking their goods to market; such efficiencies are a boost to business.

The Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan provided a joint contribution of over \$21.6 million in total eligible costs related to Highway 40 under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. The Government of Saskatchewan invested an additional \$3.7 million for costs that were not eligible under ISF. The entire project was valued at approximately \$25.3 million.

Highway 40 also had nearly 30 km of seal coating work completed this summer, worth \$801,000. This work stretched from east to west of Hafford and was funded by the province.

### **Highway 303 and Highway 3**

A paving project on Highway 303 worth about \$15.2 million and funded by the province, began in the summer of 2009 and was completed in early June 2010. Work took place on a 45 km segment of Highway 303 between the Highway 21 and Highway 16 junctions near Lloydminster. About 18 km of provincially funded road upgrades to Highway 3 east of Turtleford, worth an estimated \$11 million, were also completed this September, after having started in the fall of 2008.

This work contributed to the current nine-month primary-weight link for shippers from Lloydminster to Turtleford on Highway 303, as well as to the current nine-month and 12-month primary weight link on Highway 3 from the Alberta-Saskatchewan border to Prince Albert.

Finally, a new steel pipe culvert was also installed under Highway 3 near Paradise Hill. Work on this provincially funded project was begun and completed this summer, and was estimated to be worth \$173,000.

## **Other area projects in 2010**

**Highway 4 south of Cochin** – The province invested \$329,000 for almost 10 km of seal coat work completed in 2010.

**Highway 17 near Lloydminster** – Work was completed this spring on an estimated \$5.9-million, 23-km repaving project for Highway 17 north of Lloydminster. Funded by the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta, this project will improve and extend the service life of the highway. The province also invested \$329,000 for about 12 km of seal coat work on Highway 17 south of Lloydminster. Highway 17 was already capable of carrying nine-month and 12-month primary weights.

The province also contributed \$242,000 toward improvements to the intersection 50 Avenue (Highway 17) and 18 Street in Lloydminster. Work this year on this \$806,000 city-managed project included installing underground utilities for signal lights. Road work for the turning lanes is expected to take place in 2011.

**Highway 26 south of Turtleford** – Work began and was completed in June 2010 on the micro-surfacing of two five-km sections of Highway 26 south of Turtleford. One section stretched northwest from Vawn, and the second stretched southeast from Turtleford. This project was funded by the province for approximately \$377,000. Highway 26 was already capable of carrying nine-month primary weights.