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Ministry of Transportation

WEIGH SCALE PROJECT MOVES AHEAD UNDER CANADA-BC FUNDING

PRINCE GEORGE – Funding from the Building Canada Plan will help enable the Prince George South Weigh Scale Relocation Project to move to the construction tender stage.

The announcement was made today by Prince George MLAs Shirley Bond, Pat Bell and John Rustad, and federal Secretary of State Jay Hill, MP for Prince George-Peace River.

The \$29.7-million project has been identified as eligible to a maximum of \$11.3 million under the base funding component of Building Canada, the Government of Canada's new long-term infrastructure plan.

“The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring the safety and efficiency of transportation routes,” said Hill. “The relocation of the inspection station will help ease congestion and pressure on Highway 97 outside of Prince George, and will contribute to the faster and safer flow of local, tourist and trade traffic. As part of Building Canada, we are investing in infrastructure priorities to increase community safety, help our growing economy, and protect our environment.”

“Relocating the weigh scales and inspection facility is an important project along the Cariboo corridor and part of our government's overall commitment to revitalize B.C.'s highways, bridges, ports and airports,” said Bond.

The project involves expanding a five-kilometre section of Highway 97 from two lanes to four, and relocating the commercial vehicle inspection station near Red Rock Road, 20 kilometres south of Prince George. These improvements will increase safety and reduce congestion on the highway, and will reduce wait times experienced by commercial vehicles at the inspection station. The highway upgrade and weigh scale relocation work will begin this spring and should be completed in 2009.

“This federal-provincial co-operative agreement ensures that the much-needed highway upgrade and relocation of the south commercial vehicle weigh scale are carried out in a prompt and fiscally responsible fashion,” said Bell.

“Today's announcement has been eagerly anticipated by the trucking industry, our motorists who regularly frequent this portion of Highway 97 and our Ministry of Transportation staff, who have been working on the project details the past few years,” said Rustad.

Federal financial support is conditional on the project meeting all applicable federal eligibility requirements under Building Canada. Moving forward, the Province will now have to provide its funding as announced and propose the project for funding to the federal government under the Building Canada Plan.

Through its unprecedented \$33-billion Building Canada infrastructure plan, the Government of Canada 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. Under Building Canada, the province of British Columbia stands to receive over \$2.7 billion from 2007 to 2014.

Media contact: Jeff Knight
Communications Manager
Ministry of Transportation
250 356-7707

Karine White
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Transport,
Infrastructure and Communities
613 948-1148

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