



NEWS RELEASE

Abbotsford is approved for \$55,000,000 for Infrastructure Upgrades

ABBOTSFORD September 25, 2009 – The Provincial and Federal Governments today announced \$55,000,000 for crucial infrastructure projects for the Abbotsford International Airport and the Clearbrook Road Interchange. The funding is from the Building Canada Fund and Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. Funding is shared equally with 1/3 Federal, 1/3 Provincial and 1/3 Municipal.

“I know how much these projects mean to the City of Abbotsford and how long all three levels of government have worked to turn these projects into reality,” said Ed Fast, MP for Abbotsford. “Expanding transportation infrastructure and improving services like the airport will stimulate our local economy as well as attract investment to our region as we turn the corner on the economic downturn.”

“The Abbotsford Airport is quickly becoming a major destination for many travellers arriving to our province,” says Randy Hawes MLA for Abbotsford-Mission. “With the added traffic and expected visitors during the Olympics, upgrades like this ensure that our region is where it needs to be to accommodate any amount of growth and expansion.”

“As MLAs, we have worked very closely with both our MP Ed Fast and Mayor George Peary and Council to make these two very important capital projects a reality,” says John van Dongen MLA for Abbotsford South. “The expansion of the Abbotsford Airport and the reconstruction of the Clearbrook Road interchange will not only serve the city but the whole Fraser Valley region as well.”

“It is important to support our city as it works on building up its vital infrastructure,” says Abbotsford West MLA Michael de Jong. “Abbotsford is a large and attractive city that encourages economic activity and offers a great place to invest in. By continuing to upgrade our roadways and expand our airport we are making room for even more of these opportunities.”

“We are thrilled with this announcement,” says George W. Peary, Mayor of Abbotsford. “These projects will provide an economic stimulus to our community by creating jobs and supporting local industry which ensures our continued success in the future.”

The Abbotsford International Airport will receive \$30,000,000 for the construction of a parallel taxiway along the main runway which will double the arrival rate on Runway 07 and the departure rate on Runway 25. This funding will increase the airport's capacity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing aircraft taxi times and delays, and improve international trade by increasing the airport's capacity to handle larger aircraft,

typical of international flights. The Abbotsford International Airport serves a primary market of over 1.3 million regional travelers and is one of the fastest growing and most vital economic regions in Canada.

The Clearbrook Road Interchange will receive \$25,000,000 for a new overpass crossing Highway 1 which today handles an estimated 25,000 vehicles per day. The new overpass will address current capacity and safety issues and will provide an important gateway for the Marshall Road Industrial areas and for the potential 2,000 new jobs that the industrial area will develop. The upgrades will also provide easier access to vital institutions such as the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre, the University of the Fraser Valley, the Abbotsford Entertainment and Sports Centre, the Abbotsford International Airport, and the Matsqui Institution. The Clearbrook Road interchange was constructed in 1961 to serve an area population of 20,000.

The projects must be complete by March 31, 2011 to be eligible for full federal government funding. It is estimated that 345 new direct and indirect jobs will be created as a result of this investment.

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