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Better Together

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Grande Prairie, Alberta

55 cents plus GST

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Hwy. 40 project gets green light

\$22 million paving job will be completed by 1996

By JOHN EAMON
Herald-Tribune staff

Paving of Highway 40 south of Grande Prairie will continue this year and be completed in 1996, Transportation Minister Peter Trynchy announced today.

Trynchy, who also announced \$2 million of paving projects to two secondary highways near Grande Prairie, said it will likely take \$22 million to finish paving the remaining 168 gravel kilometres of the wilderness highway.

"We don't have any primary highways left unpaved," Trynchy told local politicians and business leaders at a press conference. "That makes it (Highway 40) a priority right off the

bat.

"We'd like to see that completed in four years."

But Trynchy put a disclaimer on the announcement, saying it's possible future budget restrictions could "change" the plan.

The initial work to finish the all-weather highway, opened at a cost of \$100 million in 1987, will see approximately \$4 million spent this year to pave 38 km in two bites between Grande Prairie and Grande Cache.

That work — 22 km on the southern end and 16 km on the northern end — is to go to tender "as quickly as possible" and must be completed within a year, Trynchy said.

Paving for the County of Grande Prairie's two top priorities — Secondary Highways 670 and 672 (Emerson Trail) — is also to be tendered this year at an estimated cost of \$2 million.

Highway 670 runs east from Grande Prairie to Bezanson, and the remaining 11 km of gravel is to be paved.

The unpaved 11 kilometres of Emerson Trail between Sexsmith and Secondary Highway 723 will also be finished.

The paving of Highway 40 was promised by Premier Ralph Klein last October in his campaign for leadership of the provincial Tory party.



PETER TRYNCHY

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