

# Highway 2 /Gaetz Avenue Interchange

## Highway 2, Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive Interchange Improvements

During the summer of 2016, construction will begin on a three year project to reconstruct the interchanges on Highway 2 at Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive near the City of Red Deer. The project will include the realignment of Highway 2, expansion to 6 lanes (3 in each direction), 5 new bridge structures and new collector-distributor roads running parallel to Highway 2.

Upgrades to these interchanges are a priority for Alberta Transportation (AT) to address increased traffic volumes, influx of local traffic onto Highway 2, spacing between the two interchanges and the unconventional merge associated with southbound traffic from Gaetz Avenue entering the far left lane of Highway 2.

### Project History

The existing Gaetz Avenue interchange was constructed in 1962 as part of an upgrade to the Highway 2 corridor. In 1994, Taylor Drive and the Taylor Drive interchange within the City of Red Deer were constructed as an extension of Highway 2A, with the intent of the interchange facilitating access onto Highway 2.

In 2007, Alberta Transportation (AT) completed a functional planning study for the Highway 2, Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive Interchange. The plan focused on traditional concepts, with separate access to both Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive.

In 2009, AT moved forward with the design phase of the project which included input from the City of Red Deer, Red Deer County, local businesses, independent members of the construction and consulting industry as well as the general public. This input redefined the objective of this project by focusing on the separation of local and highway traffic.

The finalized design is an interchange system that encompasses both Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive

as a single interchange. This is achieved by addition of one-way Collector-Distribution (C-D) roads on both sides of the highway which will allow traffic to exit or enter the highway at a single location.



Overhead view of the current configuration of Highway 2, Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive

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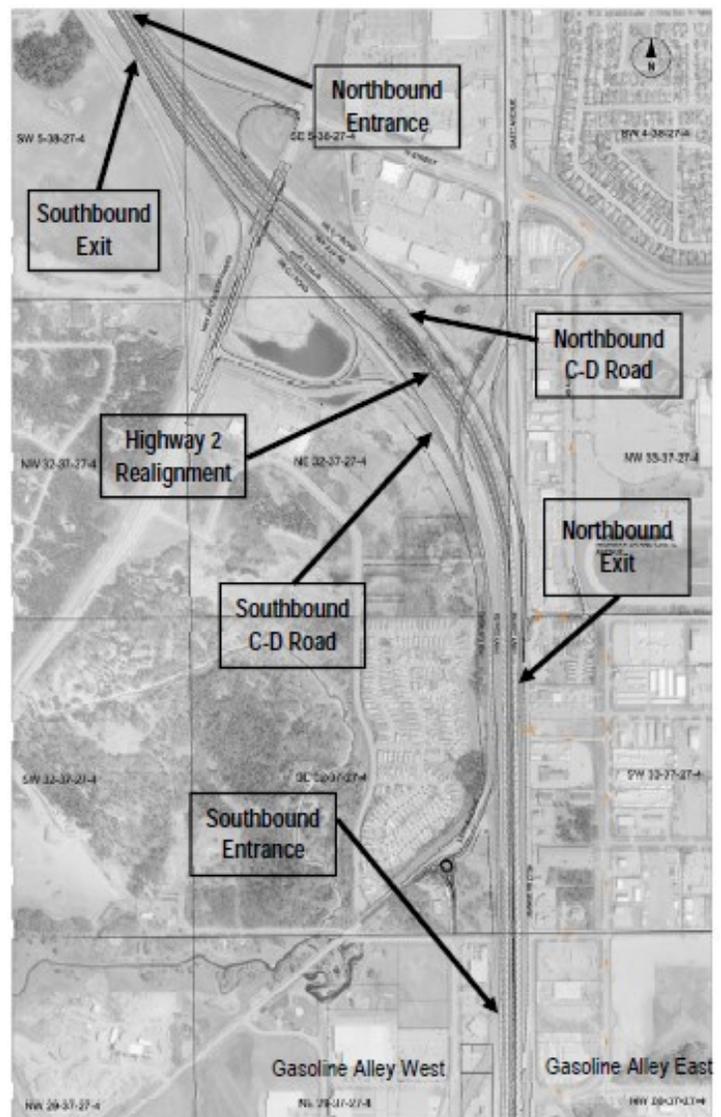
### Project Description

The new Highway 2, Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive interchange system will consist of the realignment of Highway 2 to accommodate expansion to six lanes (three in each direction) from 32nd Street to Mackenzie Road, replacement and realignment of three bridges, two new bridges and a collector-distribution (C-D) road system that will run parallel to Highway 2 (see photo at right).

The new interchange system is designed to separate high speed highway traffic from low speed local traffic through a C-D road system. The C-D road will consist of a one way road running parallel to the highway on both the east and west sides of Highway 2. There is a single entrance and exit point in each of the northbound and south bound directions. The C-D road system is a significant safety improvement to the existing interchange.

Once on the southbound C-D road, drivers will have the option to exit at Taylor Drive, exit at Gasoline Alley (west) or enter Highway 2.

Once on the northbound C-D road, drivers will have the option to exit to Gaetz Avenue, Taylor Drive or enter Highway 2. In addition, traffic from Gasoline Alley (East), will be able to access Highway 2, via the C-D road.



Overview of Highway 2, Gaetz Avenue and Taylor Drive interchange improvements.

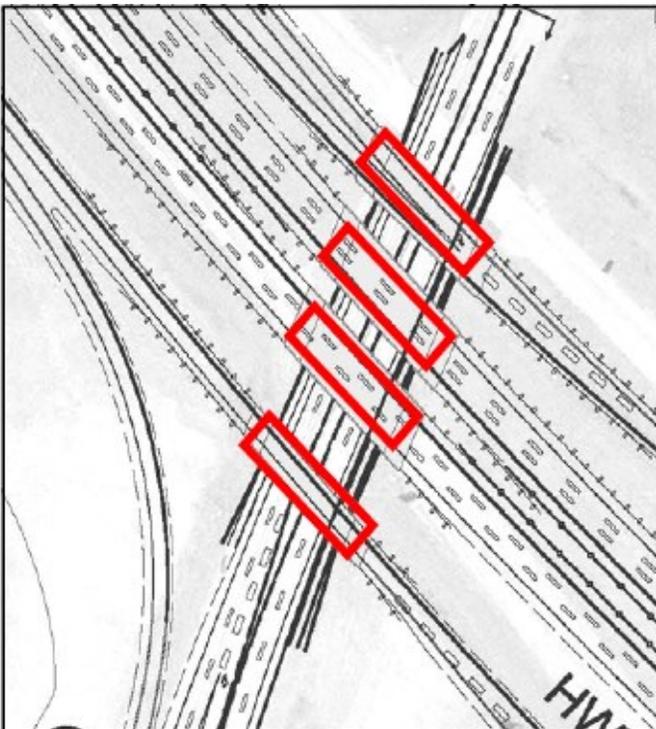
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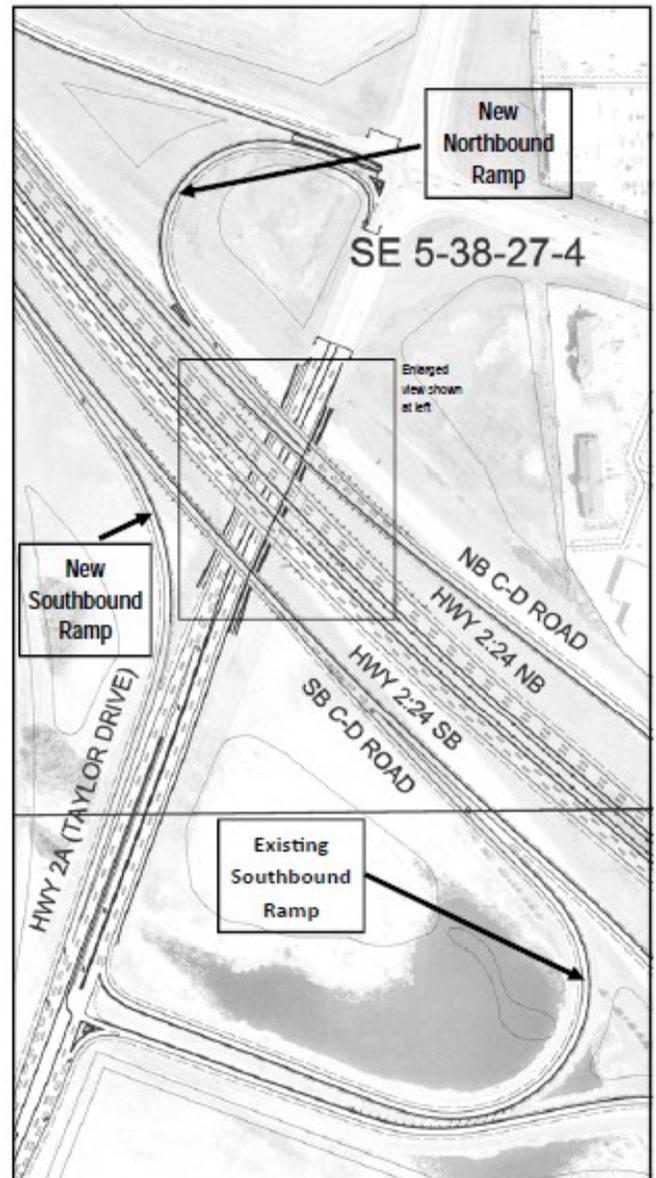
### Taylor Drive

At Taylor Drive, two existing bridges will be replaced with four new bridges. Two bridges will carry the new East and West C-D roads, while the other two bridges will carry Highway 2 (see photo below).

The Highway 2 southbound design utilizes an existing ramp as well as the creation of a new southbound ramp. Northbound, a new ramp will be constructed which will provide direct access to Taylor Drive that does not currently exist. (see photo on right).



Overhead view of Highway 2 and the location of four new bridge structures (indicated by red outline).



Overhead view of Highway 2 showing new ramp configuration at Taylor Drive.

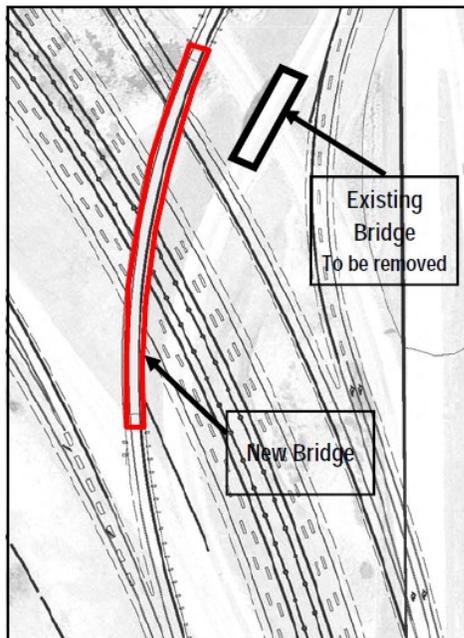
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### Gaetz Avenue

At Gaetz Avenue, a new larger span bridge will replace the existing bridge. The existing bridge provides direct access to Highway 2 from Gaetz Avenue (southbound) into the left lane of highway traffic, which is a substandard design. The new bridge, will span both Highway 2 and the North C-D road, connecting Gaetz Avenue southbound to the southbound C-D road. This provides safer access to Highway 2, via the C-D road.

The northbound access to Gaetz Avenue, will be via the northbound C-D road. This will include a curved ramp, to encourage exiting traffic to reduce speed.



Overhead view illustrating the new, larger bridge to be constructed across Highway 2



Overhead view illustrating new access to and from Gaetz Avenue

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### Collector -Distributor Roads

One of the primary benefits of a C-D road, is it provides drivers with the opportunity to make exit and entrance decisions at lower speeds. The C-D roads will have a posted speed of 70 km.

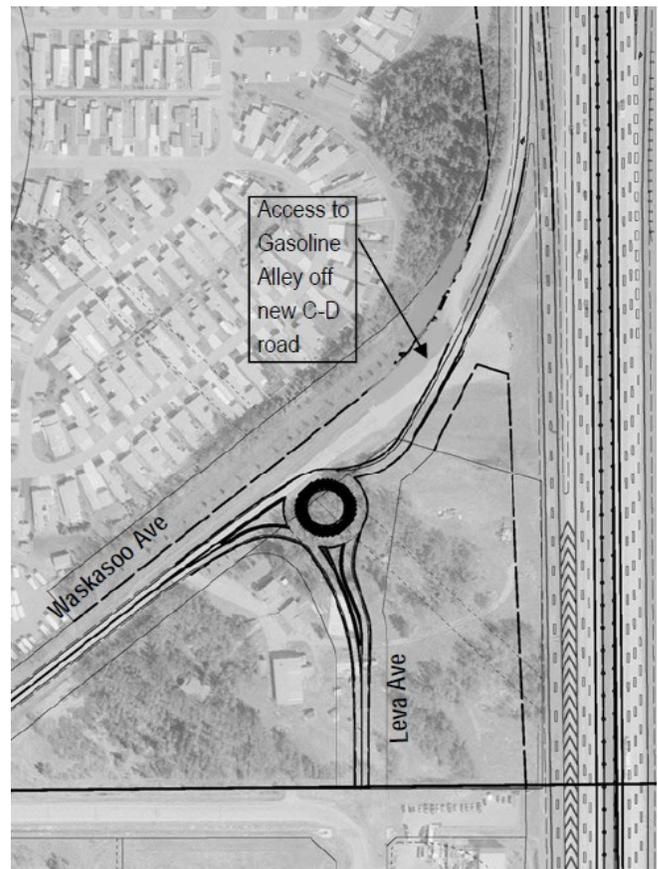
This design provides the opportunity for local traffic to access Gasoline Alley (West), via the C-D road without having to enter Highway 2. The C-D road terminates with a roundabout at Leva Avenue (in Red Deer County). By terminating the C-D road at a roundabout, the entrance to the roundabout is at an angle which discourages drivers from entering the C-D road in the wrong direction.

On the northbound C-D road, drivers will have the option to exit to Gaetz Avenue, Taylor Drive or enter Highway 2. In addition, traffic from Gasoline Alley (East), will be able to access Highway 2, via the C-D road.

### What to Expect:

Construction of this project is expected to last 3 construction seasons beginning Summer 2016, with an estimated completion of Fall 2018. As with any type of highway construction, drivers may experience delays. The project will be constructed in phases with various lane moves, closures, etc. Two lanes of traffic in each direction are expected to remain open during daylight hours on Highway 2, with a reduced speed limit.

Up to date road information is available at [511.alberta.ca](http://511.alberta.ca) or by calling 5-1-1.



Overhead view illustrating the southbound C-D road entrance to Gasoline Alley (West).

### Need more information?

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