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**LOCAL BUSINESS AWARDED HAMILTON BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT**

WHITEHORSE – A local Yukon business, Skookum Asphalt Ltd., has won a \$4,857,826-contact to provide the surface works portion of the Hamilton Boulevard Extension project.

"I congratulate Skookum Asphalt Ltd. on winning the contract to provide the paving and traffic infrastructure for the Hamilton Boulevard extension," Community Services Minister Glenn Hart said. "We have seen a number of benefits to the region's local economy throughout this initiative and I am pleased to see local Yukon businesses actively participating in the project."

The contract includes paving of the entire extension from the Alaska Highway to the existing end of Hamilton Boulevard; installation of ducting and bases for street lights; and line painting and guide rail installations.

The four-kilometre extension of Hamilton Boulevard is funded jointly with \$6.5 million from the Yukon government, \$3.5 million from the City of Whitehorse and \$5 million provided through Canada's Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF).

The extension will connect the Falcon Drive South intersection in Copper Ridge to the Alaska Highway at the existing Robert Service Way intersection and is planned to be open for service late 2008, with final project completion in 2009.

Completion of this project will ensure increased public safety by reducing traffic congestion and by providing an alternate access route for emergency vehicles.

"The extension of Hamilton Boulevard has been a key priority for my constituents and I for its added safety and access benefits," Whitehorse West Member of the Legislative Assembly Elaine Taylor said. "This is a significant and exciting milestone towards the project's completion."

Through the MRIF, the Government of Canada works in productive partnerships with provinces, territories, First Nations, as well as municipalities and the private sector, to invest in local infrastructure projects. These projects are vital to sustaining economic growth and supporting an enhanced quality of life in Canadian communities.

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