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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Road 43 Widening will Spark Regional Growth

KEMPTVILLE – The County Road 43 four-lane widening project to improve road safety, active transportation and spark regional economic growth is moving forward this year.

The official launch of the much-anticipated project and “Expand 43” sign unveiling was held at the Ferguson Forestry Centre adjacent to CR 43 thoroughfare today, followed by official remarks presented at the North Grenville Public Library.

“The County Road 43 Boulevard and Bridge expansion project represents a crucial joint investment in shared regional infrastructure that facilitates growth, crucial road safety improvements and the efficient movement of goods,” North Grenville Mayor Nancy Peckford said at the announcement.

The first phase, beginning this year, will be a new four-lane bridge. Roundabout installations, surface and pedestrian walkway work begins in 2023. It is one of the most significant projects being undertaken by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

“This multi-million dollar project, supported by all four levels of government, will serve as a further catalyst for sustainable economic development and related opportunities. Through the transformation of this road, drivers and pedestrians will also enjoy vastly improved safety, lighting, and pedestrian crossings,” Mayor Peckford said.

A total of \$9.9-Million in government funding has so far been committed towards seeding the initial 1.15-km expansion of County Road 43 with the Kemptville Creek Bridge. The Federal contribution is just under \$5-Million, with the Provincial amount \$3.3-Million. The Counties and Municipal contribution was originally \$1.6-Million but the total amount will not be finalized as the project scope evolves and tendering is completed.

April 22, 2022

"In July 2020, we were pleased to announce funding for various infrastructure upgrades throughout Eastern Ontario, and with the County Road 43 Expansion project officially underway, an important milestone has been reached," said Chandra Arya, Member of Parliament for Nepean, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities.

"Investments like these are essential to the vitality of our rural communities – they generate economic growth and allow people and businesses to connect more easily with family, friends and potential customers," MP Arya said.

"I'm proud that our government is investing over \$3.3-Million to rehabilitate and expand County Road 43, while also rehabilitating the connecting bridge across the Kemptville Creek," said the Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes.

"This is the largest project in Ontario funded by the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program's Rural and Northern stream. Our investment supports County Road 43 as a vital transit corridor to drive regional growth here in Eastern Ontario, while also helping to create safe communities for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians," the Minister said.

The entire CR 43 project expands approximately 3.1-km of existing roadway to four lanes, from Colonnade Mall through Kemptville to County Road 44. It also includes the construction of a new four-lane bridge across Kemptville Creek.

"Good infrastructure is a vital element in any community's economic development, and this expansion project is a key component of the region's prosperity," said Counties Warden Roger Haley.

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville's Official Plan recognizes that a significant portion of its projected growth and employment is being driven by developments in the Municipality of North Grenville.

The expansion is proposing four new roundabouts with illuminated push button activated pedestrian crossings at: County Road 44, Shoppers Drug Mart / St. Michael's

April 22, 2022

Catholic High School, Anniversary Way, Stinson / Retirement Home. The project will also see the reconstruction of the CR43 roundabout at CR19 and Colonnade Drive.

The addition of trees and greenery will enhance the experience when traveling along the road. There is a planned 3-metre (10-foot) wide multi-use pathway on both sides of the newly-expanded roadway and on the new four lane bridge.

It is anticipated that once the work has started, construction will require approximately 30 months to complete. Ongoing updates on the project will be found at www.Expand43.ca

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