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Improvements coming to Lynden border crossing

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LYNDEN - Improvements are coming in 2016 to both sides of the Lynden-Aldergrove border crossing.

Two lanes will be added to northbound Guide Meridian, including a NEXUS lane for frequent travelers.

After construction, the highway at the border will have a general purpose lane, a NEXUS lane and a truck lane. Construction begins this year, and the crossing should be open by early 2016.

NEXUS lanes allow faster passage for pre-approved frequent travelers on both sides of the border.

The estimated total cost for the project on the U.S. side is \$7 million, said Chris Damitio, project engineer for the Washington Department of Transportation.

At the same time, Canada is dedicating \$17.7 million to upgrading its Aldergrove, B.C. crossing. The project is a combined effort of WSDOT and Canadian border officials, Damitio said.

The Aldergrove changes will include a larger traveler processing facility and additional lanes for commercial traffic, as well as a NEXUS lane, according to press documents. The Aldergrove crossing is the second-busiest southbound commercial crossing, behind the Pacific Highway Truck Crossing at Surrey/ Blaine.

These improvements are happening now on the U.S. side because traffic will increase at the crossing when construction in Canada is finished, Damitio said.

"Our program is following along with improvements that will keep the highway safe and mobile," Damitio said.

The Lynden crossing is one of five in Whatcom County.

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