



Transportation and Economic Corridors

Ministry Business Plan

Transportation and Economic Corridors

Business Plan 2024-27

Ministry Fact Sheet – Mandate and Structure

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) provides a safe and efficient transportation system to support Alberta's economic, social, and environmental vitality. Strategic development of economic corridors and transportation hubs is key to advancing the province's market access by linking economic activity to markets in and out of Alberta. To ensure highways and roads are safe for travel, the ministry conducts ongoing monitoring and maintenance of highways. The ministry also engages in key oversight activities, supporting the safety of road users and vehicles in Alberta through educational, monitoring, and compliance programs.

TEC is responsible for a number of grant funding programs supporting projects to create jobs and support economic growth, protect public safety, and ensure long-term affordability of the transportation network's infrastructure. The construction, maintenance, and funding of essential municipal infrastructure, including bridges, roads, community airports, as well as water and wastewater treatment facilities, contribute to the resilience, connectivity, and well-being of communities. Grant funding for public transportation infrastructure projects supports integrated connections in and between communities, connecting Albertans to critical services and each other.

Economic Corridors and Strategic Investments

TEC supports Alberta's economic growth by prioritizing and advancing strategic, economic corridors. The ministry's vision is to create nation-building corridors, working with industry stakeholders and other governments to ensure Alberta's access to markets throughout Alberta, Canada, and globally. The ministry promotes harmonized standards and regulations with jurisdictional partners to remove barriers to trade, investment, and labour mobility.

The ministry strategically invests in priority capital provincial highway projects to grow and maintain capacity for the safe and efficient transport of people and goods to promote economic growth. Implementation includes planning, designing, and constructing highways and bridges as part of the Provincial Construction Program. TEC supports work with partners to facilitate the research and development and piloting of new approaches and technologies, such as hydrogen and alternatively fueled vehicles.

TEC administers capital grant programs, supporting economic growth priorities in municipalities and regions. The ministry is supporting development of road/transportation infrastructure, ancillary amenities and public use elements of the Calgary Rivers District and Event Centre. Once completed the Rivers District is expected to welcome over 8,000 new residents to the area. The Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) provides capital grant funding to municipalities for local infrastructure projects such as bridges, roads, and community airports. The ministry provides capital grant funding to help municipalities develop and maintain water/wastewater infrastructure through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP) and Water for Life and works with Indigenous Relations to implement the First Nations Water Tie-In Program. Work is underway to develop an integrated water program to increase water treatment and distribution for residential, industrial, and agricultural water use across Alberta. In addition, the ministry is providing support to water/wastewater projects in support of the hydrogen adoption in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.

TEC also supports regional, urban, and rural public transit projects through the allocation of funding toward Calgary and Edmonton LRT development. Ministry of Infrastructure administers the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) on behalf of the federal government and TEC manages the TEC related grants under ICIP.

Safety and Security

In working toward reducing the number of transportation-related injuries and fatalities in Alberta, TEC develops and implements safety strategies and improvements to infrastructure to build safer roads and reduce collisions. TEC also ensures a robust legal framework is in place to protect Albertans. The ministry regularly reviews and

refreshes legislation and regulations to align with emerging transportation-related best practices, issues, and technologies. TEC exercises a number of key oversight functions to ensure driver and vehicle safety on Alberta roads. The ministry oversees driver licensing to support road safety, including updating and enhancing passenger and commercial driver licensing programs and continuing opportunities of competency training for Class 1 drivers. TEC provides support to increase accessibility and affordability of required commercial driver training. SafeRoads Alberta ensures Albertans have quick access to a fair and efficient adjudication process to challenge administrative penalties related to alcohol or drug-related driving contraventions under the *Traffic Safety Act*. SafeRoads Alberta has also been delegated the authority to consider certain vehicle seizure applications on behalf of the Registrar of Motor Vehicle Services. The ministry also oversees safety standards and compliance related to drivers, vehicles, dangerous goods, rail, buses, and commercial carriers, and works with industry partners to ensure the safe and secure transportation of people and goods throughout the province. Alberta Environmental and Dangerous Goods Emergencies (EDGE) and the Transportation Management Centre maintain 24-hour operations to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. 511 Alberta provides timely road information so all road users can safely navigate the highway network.

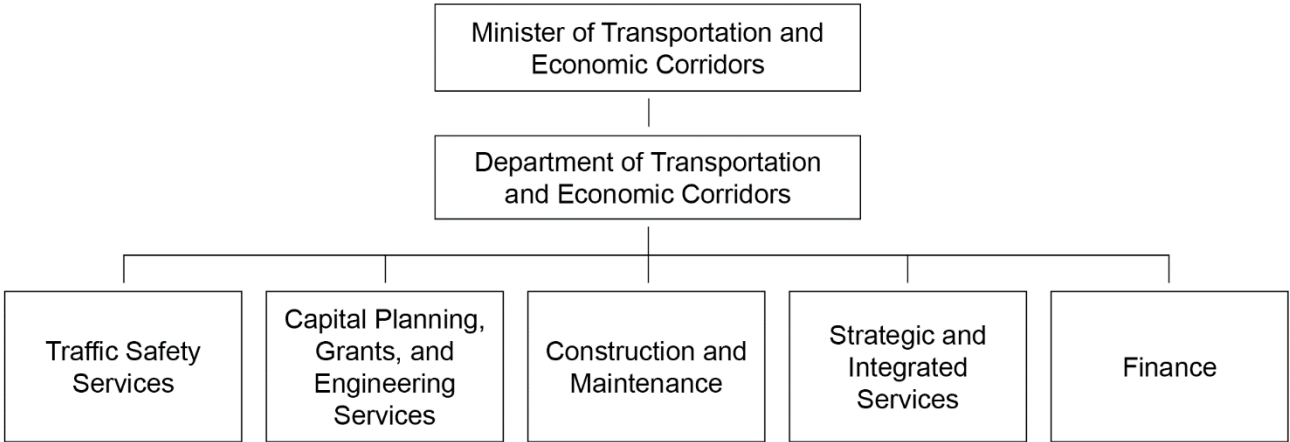
Stewardship of the Transportation Network

Planning and managing the transportation network includes making responsible budget decisions and using available resources to meet emerging and future transportation needs. Leveraging alternative sources to fund capital projects, such as through public-private partnership models, ensures Albertans receive maximum value for their investment.

TEC will develop a Passenger Rail Master Plan as the foundation to advance passenger rail in Alberta. The Master Plan will look forward and include a 15-Year delivery plan to prioritize investments. The plan will be informed by engaging Albertans, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and the private sector. TEC will assess connecting Calgary and Edmonton airports to their downtowns, regional communities to Calgary and Edmonton, Calgary to the Rocky Mountain parks system, and commuter rail service opportunities, such as from Airdrie to Okotoks.

The ministry continues to work proactively toward enhancing the resilience of water management infrastructure in the province. The Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1) and Dickson Dam are priority projects underway to provide additional flood capacity to keep Albertans safe and protect Alberta’s infrastructure from future flooding events.

Alberta has one of the largest highway networks in Canada. TEC manages more than 64,000 lane kilometres of highways (of which approximately 58,000 lane kilometres are paved) and over 4,800 bridges. The ministry invests in rehabilitation projects for roads, bridges, and slide repairs to maintain and extend the life of existing infrastructure and support economic corridors. TEC also continuously explores and employs innovative solutions for highway operations and maintenance programs to achieve the best value and most effective results.



A more detailed description of Transportation and Economic Corridors and its programs and initiatives can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/transportation-and-economic-corridors.aspx>

The Ministry of Transportation and Economic Corridors remains committed to regulatory approaches and program delivery that reduce unnecessary government oversight and emphasizes outcomes, in order to improve access to government services, attract investment, support innovation and competitiveness, and grow Alberta businesses.

Ministry business plans should be considered in conjunction with all budget documents - including the Fiscal Plan, Government Strategic Plan, and Estimates - which work together to provide a complete overview of government's commitment to responsible fiscal management.

2024-27 Business Plan

Outcome 1

Strategic economic corridor investments and innovation support Alberta's economic growth

Robust economic corridors form a network of vital links to markets in and out of Alberta, ensuring efficient access for Albertans and businesses and supporting economic vitality. Capital investment in highway initiatives and grant programs build critical infrastructure, supporting job creation and economic growth.

Key Objectives

- 1.1 Advance economic corridor investments and expand and improve major highways and roadways in the greater Edmonton and Calgary areas, focusing on economic benefits, such as market access and removing bottlenecks.
- 1.2 Plan the multi-year replacement of a set of aging bridges which are vital to rural Alberta.
- 1.3 Collaborate with industry stakeholders, other governments, and Indigenous communities to identify and advance nation-building infrastructure projects and harmonize regulations to increase market access for Alberta businesses. This includes advancing the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Corridors and developing similar agreements with western provinces and territories.
- 1.4 Administer capital grant programs and special grants and pursue federal grant investments to advance local bridge infrastructure, regional water and wastewater projects, and mobility options such as transit and passenger rail.
- 1.5 Facilitate growth and development of Alberta's airports and future linkages, such as extending the Calgary Blue Line towards the airport, and supporting recommendations of the Strategic Aviation Advisory Council.
- 1.6 Implement initiatives to address commercial and school bus driver shortages, including competency training for Class 1 drivers, reducing barriers to training and consideration of a skilled professional driver designation.
- 1.7 Facilitate the research and development and piloting of innovative approaches and new technologies - such as hydrogen vehicles and e-mobility - to attract investment and build a safer, more efficient transportation network.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- \$2.2 million is allocated for the Blue Line LRT extension towards the Calgary Airport.
- \$625.7 million is allocated for ring roads, new construction, and expansion of provincial highways.
- \$150.2 million is allocated under STIP and dedicated grants to municipalities toward road and bridge improvements and airport upgrades.
- \$87.8 million is allocated for a project-specific grant toward the Calgary Rivers District and Event Centre.
- \$467.6 million in provincial funding and \$379.2 million in federal ICIP funding is allocated for LRT expansion.
- \$134 million is allocated under the provincial Water for Life, AMWWP, First Nations Water Tie-In program and Capital Region Wastewater Treatment to support municipal and regional water and wastewater priority projects.
- \$15 million for commercial driver grants is allocated in 2024-25 to support Albertans taking driver training.

Performance Metrics

1.a Performance Measure: Percentage of Transportation and Economic Corridors' capital plan allocated to existing or planned economic corridors

This metric measures the percentage of the ministry's capital plan on economic corridors and supports the movement of oversized and overweight loads.

In 2022-23, 80 per cent of the capital plan was allocated for economic corridors. This last actual is higher than 2024-27 targets due to a change in definition of economic corridor from “the National Highway System” to “corridors that have national and provincial economic importance” to reflect priorities on economic corridors.

Targets	2024-25	75%	2025-26	76%	2026-27	77%
---------	---------	-----	---------	-----	---------	-----

1.b Performance Measure: Percentage of commercial truck driver job vacancies in relation to the total number of licensed commercial truck drivers

The percentage of commercial truck driver job vacancies in relation to the total number of Class 1 and Class 3 licenced commercial truck drivers in Alberta highlights efforts to reduce truck driver job vacancies.

In 2022-23, commercial truck driver job vacancies were 1.72 per cent.

Targets	2024-25	1.67%	2025-26	1.62%	2026-27	1.57%
---------	---------	-------	---------	-------	---------	-------

Outcome 2

The transportation system is safe and secure, supported by policies, programs, educational opportunities and enhanced services protecting public safety

Safety on Alberta roads is TEC’s top priority as the ministry continues to work toward reducing the number of serious injuries and fatalities through a comprehensive, multi-layered approach. This includes implementing an oversight and monitoring regulatory framework, effective coordination and response to road conditions and emergency incidents, and safety strategies, such as accelerating major capital investments around high collision areas.

Key Objectives

- 2.1 Ensure high standards for driver licensing and provide effective oversight and monitoring to support road user safety and cost-effective service delivery across Alberta.
- 2.2 Collaborate with other ministry partners to leverage and modernize technology to replace the Motor Vehicles System to reduce red tape and enhance driver licensing and vehicle registration service delivery for Albertans.
- 2.3 Provide effective oversight and monitoring of the commercial carrier industry and leverage technology to improve the permitting process and routing, while continuing competency training to improve public safety.
- 2.4 Work with law enforcement and municipalities to ensure automated traffic enforcement, commonly known as photo radar, is focused on traffic safety and not revenue generation.
- 2.5 Implement transportation safety strategies and infrastructure enhancements to improve road safety, promote traffic safety, and prevent transportation-related deaths and serious injuries on Alberta’s roads.

Initiative Supporting Key Objectives

- \$35.8 million is allocated for traffic safety services and initiatives under Traffic Safety Programs, including Immediate Roadside Sanction reviews conducted by SafeRoads Alberta and 511 Alberta, a road reporting service.

Performance Metric

2.a Performance Measure: Combined fatal and major injury collision rate per 100,000 population

This metric measures the combined fatal and major injury collision rate to monitor progress of safety strategies in reducing the number and severity of traffic collisions on Alberta’s roads.

The 2022-23 result was 46.5 per 100,000 population. (Rates may be revised as final data is verified.)

Targets	2024-25	43.5	2025-26	41.2	2026-27	38.9
---------	---------	------	---------	------	---------	------

Outcome 3

Alberta's transportation network and water management infrastructure is maintained effectively and responsibly, ensuring long-term sustainability and affordability

TEC optimizes planning and investment decisions to enhance and maintain the transportation network. Employing asset management principles and a fiscally responsible approach ensures best value for Albertans is achieved.

Key Objectives

- 3.1 Investigate and implement alternative funding opportunities supporting economic investment in the province and optimize the life-cycle cost of assets to support the long-term sustainability of transportation infrastructure.
- 3.2 Assess feasibility and develop a Passenger Rail Master Plan, including a 15-year delivery plan to guide investments to ensure efficient and timely use of tax dollars. Explore cost-sharing arrangements supporting passenger rail.
- 3.3 Develop and maintain critical infrastructure to enhance resilience from current and future hazards, such as SR1.
- 3.4 Invest in capital maintenance and renewal to maintain or improve the condition of the highway network and extend the life of existing roads and bridges.
- 3.5 Ensure highway operations and maintenance programs achieve the best value for investment and most effective results, embracing innovative, cost-effective approaches and technologies.
- 3.6 Partner with industry and other orders of government to address procurement-related capital project challenges such as cost escalation and estimation, uncertainty, and risk sharing ensuring Albertans receive top value.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- \$430.3 million is allocated for Provincial Highway Maintenance. This investment will ensure highway pavement and key highway infrastructure is maintained using cost-effective approaches.
- \$577.3 million is allocated for Capital Maintenance and Renewal to maintain provincial highway network assets.
- \$100.4 million is allocated for construction of the SR1 project, to protect Calgary and southern Alberta from the type of devastation that resulted from the 2013 floods that caused \$5 billion in damage.
- \$46.6 million is allocated for general water management infrastructure to improve Alberta's flood resiliency, protect Albertans from natural disasters, and support industry.
- \$9 million is allocated for development of a Passenger Rail Master Plan, including a 15-year delivery plan.

Performance Metrics

3.a Performance Measure: Physical condition of provincial highway surfaces

Maintenance and rehabilitation reduce total life cycle cost of the highway system, improving return on investment.

In 2022-23, 58 per cent of highways were rated good, 26 per cent fair, and 16 per cent poor.

Targets: Good	2024-25	58%	2025-26	58%	2026-27	58%
Targets: Fair	2024-25	26%	2025-26	26%	2026-27	26%
Targets: Poor	2024-25	16%	2025-26	16%	2026-27	16%

3.b Performance Measure: Winter maintenance is completed within or above the specified contract requirements

This metric evaluates the effectiveness of snow and ice control on the highway system. Targets for storm response and returning the highway to good winter driving conditions are defined within the contracts.

The 2022-23 result was 95 per cent.

Targets	2024-25	95%	2025-26	95%	2026-27	95%
----------------	----------------	-----	----------------	-----	----------------	-----

3.c Performance Measure: Summer surface treatments (tonnes of asphalt treatment product) are completed on paved highways to ensure safe and efficient travel

Measuring tonnes of asphalt treatment product used in maintenance activities such as pothole filling, and paver, machine, and hand patching, ensures appropriate quantities are used to keep the highways safe to drive.

In 2022-23, 103,150 tonnes of asphalt treatment product were used.

Targets	2024-25	85,000	2025-26	85,000	2026-27	85,000
----------------	----------------	--------	----------------	--------	----------------	--------

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable		2024-25 Estimate	2025-26 Target	2026-27 Target
	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Forecast			
REVENUE					
Clean Water Wastewater Fund	-	1,200	500	-	-
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	430,834	336,826	431,512	362,082	668,776
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	43,130	45,481	45,751	45,450	45,775
Premiums, Fees and Licences	33,479	33,479	33,479	33,479	33,479
Refunds of Expense	2,575	2,575	2,575	2,575	2,575
Other Revenue	23,251	23,251	25,614	26,983	26,983
Consolidated Total	533,269	442,812	539,431	470,569	777,588
EXPENSE					
Ministry Support Services	9,373	9,373	9,614	9,787	9,917
Program Services and Support	39,455	39,655	49,227	46,635	40,747
Traffic Safety Programs	43,819	54,919	50,781	65,100	55,515
Provincial Highway Maintenance	1,299,785	1,295,885	1,365,424	1,412,101	1,433,255
Municipal Transit and Transportation Grant Programs	505,829	522,756	707,774	761,246	706,650
Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant Programs	190,231	63,000	134,000	198,718	206,645
Federal Grant Programs	430,634	337,626	431,612	361,682	668,576
Water Management Projects	38,032	38,032	34,332	34,332	34,332
Ring Roads - Debt Servicing	100,613	100,613	97,103	93,705	90,150
Ministry Total	2,657,771	2,461,859	2,879,867	2,983,306	3,245,787
Inter-Ministry Consolidation Adjustment	(38,032)	(38,032)	(34,332)	(34,332)	(34,332)
Consolidated Total	2,619,739	2,423,827	2,845,535	2,948,974	3,211,455
Net Operating Result	(2,086,470)	(1,981,015)	(2,306,104)	(2,478,405)	(2,433,867)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
Ministry Support Services	687	687	1,115	687	687
Ring Roads	126,961	104,829	73,314	-	50,000
Provincial Highway Construction Projects	771,914	473,836	556,872	665,477	599,620
Bridge Construction Projects	106,016	106,016	120,900	125,000	130,000
Provincial Highway Rehabilitation	620,886	603,886	456,397	440,071	435,139
Water Management Projects	219,812	248,375	146,999	92,356	70,000
Consolidated Total	1,846,276	1,537,629	1,355,597	1,323,591	1,285,446