

Transportation

BUSINESS PLAN 2015–18

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of October 15, 2015.

original signed by

Brian Mason, Minister

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of Transportation and the Alberta Transportation Safety Board.

Transportation provides a safe, integrated, innovative and sustainable transportation system that supports Alberta's economy and quality of life. The ministry undertakes the following key activities:

- preserving and developing the provincial highway system;
- managing transportation safety;
- supporting municipalities with transit and water/wastewater facilities; and
- developing a multi-modal transportation network.

A more detailed description of Transportation and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.transportation.alberta.ca.

LINK TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The desired outcomes and priority initiatives identified in this business plan are aligned with the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Government of Alberta is committed to providing a safe, efficient, sustainable transportation system that is affordable and meets the needs of all Albertans. A reliable, multi-modal transportation network will help ensure a diversified, value-added economy that supports Alberta's quality of life, fosters innovation and embraces Alberta's growing population.

Foundation for the Future

Government is developing a transportation strategy for Alberta based on input from public consultations and engagement with key stakeholders. This strategy will cover all forms of transportation, connectivity and ways to move people and products to promote and attract investment, encourage regulatory harmonization, enhance safety and investigate and integrate innovative delivery methods and technologies. It will also provide an overarching direction looking to the future and help guide decisions on transportation investment, policies and programs over the long-term. A coordinated approach across governments, industry and other transportation stakeholders is critical for addressing Alberta's transportation challenges. The ministry will continue working closely with all partners, stakeholders and Alberta's Indigenous people to build a relationship of trust and respectful consultation. This engagement supports work toward a safe, efficient, affordable and environmentally sustainable transportation system in the long-term.

Supporting a Diversified and Value-Added Economy

The continued strengthening and building of a better economy to support Alberta families depends on a safe and accessible transportation system. Smart investments in transportation infrastructure will contribute to a strong economy by improving the flow of people and goods throughout the province and expanding access to markets within Alberta, across Canada and globally. Support toward the development of effective connections between the various modes of transportation (road, rail, air, port, active transportation and public transit) will enable a reliable and well-integrated transportation system. Government will work with partners and stakeholders to make strategic investments in the transportation system to enhance Albertans' quality of life and will work with other jurisdictions and Transport Canada to promote enhanced oversight of air and rail transport, and improved access for rail transport, particularly with respect to shipments of Alberta products to export markets.

Safe Road Users, Vehicles and Infrastructure

In 2013, more than 141,000 motor vehicle collisions resulted in 358 fatalities and 18,650 injuries. The combined fatal and major injury collision rate per 100,000 population has been on a downward trend over the last several years; however, growth and development in Alberta means improving transportation safety will continue to be both a challenge and a priority for the ministry. In light of this, the ministry will continue to develop strategies under the Safer Systems Approach to promote safer road users, vehicles and infrastructure, and better educate all Albertans about transportation safety. The ministry continues to support recovery from the devastating floods that took place in southern Alberta and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in 2013. The ministry has also undertaken activities to reduce impacts of future floods including restoring damaged roadways, bridges and other related structures to a pre-flood condition and improving flood mitigation and the province's emergency response capacity.

Protecting Our Environment

The ministry is committed to protecting Alberta's environment and will continue working to balance the impact of activities on the environment, and review opportunities with partners for programs and projects to further address environmental risks, such as promoting transit-friendly and active transportation options, such as cycling and walking. In addition, new and innovative practices must be developed for the design, construction and maintenance of the province's transportation infrastructure to enhance the efficient use of resources and water management infrastructure to protect the safe supply of water for domestic, agricultural, industrial and recreational uses.

Balancing Transportation Maintenance and Expansion in an Affordable Manner

The challenges of Alberta's aging transportation infrastructure and a large highway network of more than 31,000 kilometres will be addressed by engaging in strategic approaches developed through transportation asset management processes. These will enable well-informed and transparent decision-making and identify investment opportunities, taking into account key areas of the ministry's business, including safety, community support, intermodal connectivity, economic vitality, asset longevity, value for money and seamless delivery. Implementing innovative and cost-effective options and protecting the province's assets by investing wisely to extend the life, use and cost of transportation infrastructure will make the best possible use of available funding and resources and ensure that Alberta's transportation system remains sustainable over the long-term. The ministry supports the government's capital planning process and will need to ensure Alberta's transportation system keeps pace with the province's growing population, connects communities and enhances the quality of life for Alberta's families. The ministry will work with its partners to ensure municipalities have resources to fulfill their infrastructure priorities, including transit. The ministry will also work to ensure Indigenous communities have reliable access to clean and safe drinking water.

DESIRED OUTCOMES, PRIORITY INITIATIVES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Desired Outcome One: A well-integrated, multi-modal transportation system that connects communities and supports a diversified and value-added economy

Alberta's economic growth and increasing population call for a transportation network that connects people, places and products both in and beyond Alberta. The network must facilitate competitiveness and enable connected communities, enhancing Albertans' quality of life.

Priority Initiatives:

- 1.1 Create and implement a transportation strategy to develop a multi-modal system that will support a high quality of life, strong economy and a healthy environment for all Albertans to meet growing urban, rural and regional transportation needs.
- 1.2 Complete the twinning of Highway 63 between Grassland and Fort McMurray to improve safety for travellers and accommodate economic activity.
- 1.3 Continue construction on the Edmonton and Calgary ring roads.
- 1.4 Develop a long-term infrastructure plan with other governments and industry that supports the outcomes of the transportation strategy.
- 1.5 Promote harmonized standards and regulations with partner jurisdictions and clearly communicate objectives to industry.
- 1.6 Enhance rural bus services and enable urban and regional transit services by collaborating with partners to develop and implement options to support community transit strategies promoting accessible, affordable and inclusive transit for families, Albertans in need, seniors and people with disabilities.

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
1.a Highway 63 twinning between Grassland and Fort McMurray: • Percentage of twinned highway kilometres open to travel	22%	67%	100%	100%
1.b Ring roads in Edmonton and Calgary: • Percentage of combined ring road kilometres open to travel	80.6%	80.6%	84.0%	84.0%

Performance Indicator	Actual 2011	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Actual 2014
1.a Alberta's exports by mode of transportation (\$ millions):				
• Intermodal (rail and marine)	21,467	21,983	24,443	27,322
• Road	8,279	9,572	7,623	8,964
• Air	1,486	1,651	1,781	1,884

Desired Outcome Two: Long-term sustainability and affordability of Alberta’s transportation system

A transportation system to serve Albertans both now and in the future requires smart investment and a detailed understanding of assets. The provincial transportation network is a vital component that enhances the economic prosperity and social growth of the province. Preservation of transportation infrastructure, including maintenance and rehabilitation, extends its useful life and reduces long-term costs. Strategic decision-making in operating, maintaining and upgrading essential highway network capacity will help ensure optimal use and long-term sustainability of the province’s transportation assets.

Priority Initiatives:

- 2.1 Create and implement a transparent infrastructure plan to sustain an efficient and effective road network in Alberta.
- 2.2 Enhance transportation asset management planning to support strategic decision-making, taking into account life-cycle costs, economic, environmental and social impacts.
- 2.3 Investigate and implement innovative technology, standards and approaches to reduce costs and promote the long-term affordability of the transportation system.
- 2.4 Implement approaches to ensure highway operations and maintenance achieve the results Albertans need.
- 2.5 Continue expansion of the automated permitting Transportation Routing and Vehicle Information Multi-Jurisdictional system across municipalities throughout Alberta.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
2.a Physical condition of provincial highway surfaces:				
• Percentage in good condition	57.8%	55.5%	55.5%	55.5%
• Percentage in fair condition	27.1%	28.0%	28.0%	28.0%
• Percentage in poor condition	15.1%	16.5%	16.5%	16.5%

Desired Outcome Three: A transportation system that supports environmental stewardship and the quality of life for all communities

The ministry will support initiatives such as increased access to transit, that promote environmental sustainability of the transportation system and support a high quality of life for Albertans by aiming to lower transportation costs for families, reduce greenhouse gases and contribute to protecting the environment.

Priority Initiatives:

- 3.1 Develop and implement standards, design and planning of the transportation system that support environmental stewardship objectives and enhance the efficient use of resources.
- 3.2 Investigate opportunities and partnerships to reduce greenhouse gases from transportation sources.
- 3.3 Promote the development of public transit systems through grant funding programs to support municipal and regional transportation.
- 3.4 Identify transportation initiatives to advance energy efficiencies as a component of the government’s Climate Change Strategy.
- 3.5 Ensure all Albertans have reliable access to clean drinking water and water/wastewater treatment systems by providing funding, through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership program and the Water for Life program, to assist municipalities with the provision of water supply, water treatment and wastewater treatment and disposal facilities.
- 3.6 Work with partners to ensure Indigenous communities have reliable access to clean and safe drinking water.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2012-13	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
3.a Percentage of municipal clients satisfied with overall quality of service (biennial survey)	93%	n/a	95%	n/a

Desired Outcome Four: A safe and secure transportation system that protects Albertans

The safe and secure movement of Albertans and goods across the transportation system is enhanced by education, innovative technologies, safety regulations and safer infrastructure, increasing Albertans' quality of life and resulting in lower death and casualty rates. Eliminating high-risk vehicle operation and improving driver behaviors saves lives.

Priority Initiatives:

- 4.1 Continue to implement transportation safety strategies in support of the Traffic Safety Plan 2015 to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities on Alberta roadways, and develop the new five-year Transportation Safety Plan 2020 and an Indigenous transportation safety strategy to build upon these improvements.
- 4.2 Promote and enhance the Traveller Information Portal (511 Alberta) to provide drivers with reliable and timely travel condition information.
- 4.3 Continue to develop amendments to the *Traffic Safety Act* and regulations to enhance the safety of transportation system users.
- 4.4 Investigate and implement appropriate innovative technologies and approaches that promote a safe and intelligent transportation system.
- 4.5 Work with law enforcement, other levels of government, emergency responders and other partners to enhance early response systems and ensure the safe and secure transportation of dangerous goods through communities and strengthen critical infrastructure to reduce the impacts of small and large emergency incidents.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
4.a Combined fatal and major injury collision rate per 100,000 population ¹	66.6	63.0	60.8	58.5

Note:

- ¹ Actual rate is calculated as a three-year rolling average.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Consolidated Financial Statements Basis

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable			
	2014-15 Actual	2015-16 Estimate	2016-17 Target	2017-18 Target
REVENUE				
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	7,632	7,171	8,294	8,662
Building Canada - Base Component	7,397	7,397	7,397	7,397
Building Canada - Major Infrastructure Component	4,669	4,868	4,868	4,868
Infrastructure Stimulus Fund	4,221	4,221	4,221	4,221
Premiums, Fees and Licences	34,014	33,900	33,900	33,900
Refunds of Expense	6,272	1,475	1,475	1,475
Other Revenue	20,984	34,220	14,899	14,962
Total	85,189	93,252	75,054	75,485
EXPENSE				
Ministry Support Services	32,413	32,337	32,200	32,200
Program Services and Support	23,925	31,202	39,347	39,347
Traffic Safety Services	31,313	36,578	36,578	36,578
Alberta Transportation Safety Board	1,609	2,360	2,360	2,360
Provincial Highway Maintenance and Preservation	962,816	931,048	964,731	1,000,414
Capital for Emergent Projects	6,600	300	-	-
Municipal Transportation Grant Programs	213,818	215,000	305,000	370,000
Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant Programs	82,084	55,000	130,000	105,000
Northeast Alberta Strategic Projects	61,653	-	-	-
2013 Alberta Flooding	6,497	5,800	-	-
Debt Servicing	71,922	70,741	82,527	94,258
Total	1,494,650	1,380,366	1,592,743	1,680,157
Net Operating Result	(1,409,461)	(1,287,114)	(1,517,689)	(1,604,672)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT				
Ministry Support Services	4,622	5,622	4,382	4,382
Capital for Emergent Projects	2,643	6,110	-	-
Ring Roads	512,000	720,926	509,464	587,212
Northeast Alberta Strategic Projects	436,766	291,015	103,246	55,999
Provincial Highway Construction Projects	172,866	344,803	136,566	249,565
Bridge Construction Projects	33,109	36,414	51,750	68,150
Provincial Highway Rehabilitation	139,507	309,701	320,000	360,000
Water Management Infrastructure	9,831	20,500	10,180	10,000
2013 Alberta Flooding	29,389	78,937	33,000	-
Total	1,340,733	1,814,028	1,168,588	1,335,308