

# Transportation

BUSINESS PLAN 2014-17

---

## ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of February 12, 2014.

*original signed by*

Wayne Drysdale, Minister  
February 19, 2014

## THE MINISTRY

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

Transportation provides a safe, innovative and sustainable, world-class 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 traffic safety services; and
- supporting a multi-modal transportation network.

A more detailed description of Transportation and its programs and initiatives can be found at [www.transportation.alberta.ca](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca).

## RESULTS-BASED BUDGETING AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC PLAN

Programs and services delivered by the ministry are reviewed for relevance, effectiveness and efficiency in accordance with the Government of Alberta's *Results-based Budgeting Act*.

This business plan supports the themes outlined in the *Government of Alberta Strategic Plan* in the following ways:

- Investing in Families and Communities. Transportation continues to implement the Traffic Safety Plan 2015 to improve traffic safety and ensure that effective driver and traffic programs, services and standards are in place. The ministry works with various community partners to enhance early response capacities as well as identify and strengthen essential transportation infrastructure. The ministry also manages provincial and federal grant programs to help municipalities develop and preserve their transportation systems and increase public transit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Securing Alberta's Economic Future. Transportation leads the planning, construction and preservation of Alberta's provincial highway network to connect communities and support economic and social growth. The ministry adopts cost effective and efficient ways to provide essential transportation infrastructure for Albertans, including innovative alternative delivery options. Transportation represents Alberta's interests in an integrated multi-modal (road, rail, air, port, active and public transit) transportation system and facilitates regulatory harmonization initiatives at all levels of government. The ministry also delivers funding through available municipal water infrastructure grant programs to support municipal and regional water infrastructure.

The plan supports the achievement of the following strategic goals as set out in the government's strategic plan:

- Goal 1: Honour Alberta's Communities. Transportation works with community partners, including local governments, industry and the public, to develop strategies to promote safe drivers, vehicles and roads as well as ensure safe transportation of dangerous goods through communities. In order to keep communities connected, reduce the impact of future disasters, and support a vibrant economy and quality of life, the ministry liaises with enforcement agencies and emergency responders to enhance early response capacities and systems, and assesses and strengthens essential transportation infrastructure. Transportation also assists municipalities by providing funding for programs that support and develop the use of public transit, such as GreenTRIP.

- **Goal 5: Living Within Our Means.** Transportation develops and implements smart investment strategies to ensure Albertans have access to an affordable transportation network, now and in the future. Strategies include the use of public-private partnerships, cost-effective planning, and construction and maintenance of roads and bridges. Through partnerships, the ministry also supports development of multi-jurisdictional, multi-modal transportation systems that increase market access and promote long-term economic growth in Alberta.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

### **Supporting a Growing Economy**

Alberta's economy depends on a safe and reliable transportation system to make the most of economic opportunities. An integrated multi-modal (road, rail, air, port, active and public transit) transportation system will be critical to Alberta's future economic prosperity. As Alberta grows, the ministry will work with its partners to make smart and strategic investments in the transportation system to support the province's economy.

### **Balancing System Expansion and System Maintenance in an Affordable Manner**

Alberta's transportation infrastructure is aging and will deteriorate without regular maintenance. The building of new infrastructure further fuels the need for operating and maintenance funding. Finding and adopting innovative and cost effective options, including public-private partnerships, will help to ensure that Alberta's transportation system remains affordable over the long-term.

### **Alberta's Changing Demographics**

Alberta continues to attract new residents and new business. In turn, population growth together with economic development will increase demand on transportation systems to support growth and maintain quality of life. The ministry supports the government's capital planning process and will need to ensure our transportation system keeps pace particularly in high growth areas while also connecting all communities.

### **Respect for the Environment**

The ministry must continue striving to balance the impact of its activities on the environment. In addition, new and innovative practices must be developed for the design, construction and maintenance of the province's water management infrastructure to protect the safe supply of water for domestic, agricultural, industrial and recreational uses.

### **Relationships with Other Jurisdictions and Stakeholders**

A coordinated approach across governments, industry and other transportation stakeholders is critical for addressing Alberta's transportation challenges. The ministry will need to continue working closely with all partners and stakeholders to promote and attract investment, encourage regulatory harmonization, promote safety, and work towards an affordable and sustainable transportation system in the long-term. In addition, the ministry will work with other jurisdictions and Transport Canada to promote enhanced oversight of rail transport, particularly with respect to rail shipments of Alberta bitumen to export markets.

### **Safe Drivers, Roads and Vehicles**

In 2012, more than 136,000 motor vehicle collisions resulted in 340 fatalities and 18,200 injuries. While this represents a decrease in fatalities and injuries, the growth in population and continued development in the province means improving traffic safety will continue to be both a challenge and a priority for the ministry. The ministry continues to develop strategies to promote safe drivers, vehicles and roads, and better educate all Albertans about traffic safety.

### **Alberta Floods and Recovery**

In June 2013, devastating floods took place in Southern Alberta and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Full recovery from the disasters will take years. The ministry is supporting the flood recovery and mitigation efforts by restoring damaged roadways, bridges and other related structures to a pre-flood condition and will commence mitigation activities to reduce impacts of future floods on the provincial highway network.

## GOALS, PRIORITY INITIATIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND INDICATORS

As a result of the ministry's review of its goals, environment, opportunities and challenges, a number of priority initiatives have been identified. Focused agenda items, several specific areas where government will focus its attention over the next three years, are identified with a \*. Additional government commitments to Albertans are identified with a ✓.

### Goal One: A well-integrated, multi-modal transportation system that supports a growing economy

Alberta's economic growth and increasing population call for a well-integrated transportation network that connects different modes and facilitates economic growth.

#### Priority Initiatives:

- ✓ 1.1 Develop a long-term multi-modal Transportation Strategy that supports Albertans' priorities, including competitiveness and sustainability.
- 1.2 Complete twinning of Highway 63 between Grassland and Fort McMurray to improve safety and accommodate economic activity.
- 1.3 Continue construction to complete the Edmonton and Calgary ring roads.
- 1.4 Develop Alberta's strategic corridors.
- 1.5 Promote harmonized standards and regulations with partner jurisdictions.

Performance Measures	Last Actual 2012-13	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17
1.a Highway 63 twinning between Grassland and Fort McMurray:				
• Percentage of twinned highway kilometres open to travel	7%	22%	67%	100%
1.b Ring roads in Edmonton and Calgary:				
• Percentage of combined ring road kilometres open to travel	70.5%	80.0%	80.0%	84.5%

Performance Indicator	Actual 2008	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Actual 2011	Actual 2012
1.a Alberta's exports by mode of transportation (\$ millions):					
• Intermodal (rail and marine)	22,557	16,457	18,332	21,465	22,840
• Road	9,159	7,333	7,188	8,280	9,574
• Air	1,883	1,553	1,506	1,487	1,651

### Goal Two: Long-term affordability of Alberta's transportation system

The transportation system must be affordable to plan, build, operate and maintain and requires smart investment to ensure it will serve Albertans now and in the future. The provincial transportation network is important as it is a critical component supporting the economic prosperity and social growth of the province. Preservation of transportation infrastructure lengthens its useful life and reduces long-term costs.

#### Priority Initiatives:

- 2.1 Continue to preserve provincial highway infrastructure to protect Alberta's investment.
- 2.2 Continue to preserve provincial bridge and overpass infrastructure to protect Alberta's investment.
- 2.3 Employ innovative technology, standards and approaches such as designated highway lane use to reduce costs and to provide and protect the long-term affordability of the transportation system.
- 2.4 Continue expansion of the automated permitting Transportation Routing and Vehicle Information Multi-Jurisdictional (TRAVIS MJ) system across municipalities throughout Alberta.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2012-13	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17
2.a Physical condition of provincial highway surfaces:				
• Percentage in good condition	58.4%	54.0%	53.0%	52.0%
• Percentage in fair condition	26.4%	29.5%	30.0%	30.5%
• Percentage in poor condition	15.2%	16.5%	17.0%	17.5%

### Goal Three: Support environmental stewardship and the quality of life for all communities

Initiatives support quality of life for Albertans and help reduce carbon emissions that contributes to environmental stewardship objectives.

#### Priority Initiatives:

- 3.1 Administer grant funding programs, including GreenTRIP, to support municipal transportation.
- 3.2 Identify transportation initiatives to advance energy efficiencies as a component of the government's *Climate Change Strategy*.
- 3.3 Promote and enhance the Traveler Information Portal (511 Alberta) that provides drivers with accurate and real time information on travel conditions.
- 3.4 Provide 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.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2012-13	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17
3.a Percentage of municipal clients satisfied with overall quality of service (biennial survey)	93%	95%	n/a	95%

### Goal Four: A safe transportation system that protects Albertans

Eliminating high risk vehicle operation and improving driver behaviors saves lives. Transportation understands that it is important to promote safe driving that will protect families and individuals and ensure a transportation system that protects communities and improves the overall prosperity of the province.

#### Priority Initiatives:

- \*4.1 Work with law enforcement and other government agencies, municipalities, emergency responders and other partners to enhance early response systems and ensure the safe transportation of dangerous goods through communities and identify and strengthen critical highway infrastructure, to keep communities connected, reduce the impact of future disasters, and decrease associated recovery times and costs.
- 4.2 Implement traffic safety strategies in support of the Traffic Safety Plan 2015 and successor plans to reduce collisions, injuries and fatalities on Alberta roadways.
- 4.3 Continue to develop phased amendments to the *Traffic Safety Act* and regulations to enhance the safety of transportation system users.
- 4.4 Investigate and implement appropriate innovative technologies that promote an intelligent and safe transportation system.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2012-13	Target 2014-15	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17
4.a Combined fatal and major injury collision rates per 100,000 population <sup>1</sup>	68.6	65.2	63.0	60.8

#### Note:

- 1 Actual and target rates are calculated as a three year rolling average.

**OPERATIONAL PLAN**

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable			<b>2014-15 Estimate</b>	2015-16 Target	2016-17 Target
	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Forecast			
<b>OPERATIONAL EXPENSE</b>						
Ministry Support Services	27,024	29,063	29,063	<b>30,404</b>	30,223	30,741
Program Services and Support	27,146	28,569	28,670	<b>30,233</b>	30,045	30,707
Traffic Safety Services	27,387	29,452	29,452	<b>32,296</b>	31,688	32,274
Alberta Transportation Safety Board	1,666	2,414	2,414	<b>2,472</b>	2,452	2,506
Provincial Highway Maintenance and Preservation	913,623	863,989	939,178	<b>926,471</b>	935,394	980,190
Northeast Alberta Strategic Projects	-	-	-	<b>3,000</b>	-	-
2013 Alberta Flooding	-	-	6,000	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>996,846</b>	<b>953,487</b>	<b>1,034,777</b>	<b>1,024,876</b>	<b>1,029,802</b>	<b>1,076,418</b>

**CAPITAL PLAN SPENDING**

Ministry Support Services	10,426	5,009	4,592	<b>5,009</b>	5,009	5,009
Provincial Highway Maintenance and Preservation	22,114	12,000	12,000	<b>13,000</b>	13,000	13,000
Capital for Emergent Projects	33,521	16,000	5,101	<b>12,646</b>	-	-
Municipal Transportation Grant Programs	208,280	200,000	224,287	<b>264,800</b>	220,000	200,000
Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant Programs	167,876	75,000	84,254	<b>75,000</b>	75,000	75,000
Federal Grant Programs	37,273	30,278	16,878	<b>11,998</b>	-	-
Ring Roads	608,072	624,975	702,086	<b>574,603</b>	1,015,402	1,108,259
Northeast Alberta Strategic Projects	263,754	271,018	271,487	<b>590,037</b>	263,999	71,105
Provincial Highway Construction Projects	396,425	218,100	263,564	<b>174,166</b>	179,300	184,550
Bridge Construction Projects	35,000	42,718	47,886	<b>31,150</b>	32,200	33,350
Provincial Highway Rehabilitation	122,461	134,141	89,373	<b>201,005</b>	265,500	268,067
Water Management Infrastructure	20,091	10,000	13,170	<b>19,852</b>	10,165	10,180
2013 Alberta Flooding	-	-	24,660	<b>45,900</b>	51,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,925,293</b>	<b>1,639,239</b>	<b>1,759,338</b>	<b>2,019,166</b>	<b>2,130,575</b>	<b>1,968,520</b>