

Recommendations

The Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association (ARHCA) is committed to providing principled and compelling solutions to ensure Alberta's road infrastructure supports a vibrant economic climate and enhances the quality of life of Albertans.

Our recommendations highlight the need to prioritize **asset preservation**, strategically **plan for the future**, and create new mechanisms to promote **transparency in decision making**. The ARHCA is advocating the following recommendations for the Alberta government to improve the management, funding and delivery of road infrastructure in Alberta.

Roads are Critical to Alberta's Quality of Life

- 1.1 Commit to and share publicly a long-term vision and strategy for the sustainability and future of Alberta's road network.
- 1.2 Create a new and predictable funding model to manage and maintain Alberta's road infrastructure by matching funding to achieve commitments made by government in published 5-year rolling plans.
- 1.3 Commit to an integrated and multi-modal approach to transportation infrastructure policy and planning.
- 1.4 Create a policy and regulatory environment that incentivizes technological advances in the transportation sector.
- 1.5 Clearly define and empower entities to be accountable for their respective roles. Government should be responsible for setting strategic direction and policy, an independent agency should oversee planning and procurement, while the private sector is responsible for construction and delivery.

Driving road safety through policy and practice

- 2.1 Adopt an integrated approach to road safety through better road design and maintenance, improved driver behaviour and enforcement of traffic regulations.
- 2.2 Renew the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan in collaboration with industry partners and stakeholders.
- 2.3 Increase and sustain public education and communication on traffic safety to address driver behaviours, particularly in roadside emergency scenes, construction zones and where winter crews are working.

- 2.4 Explore the implementation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies to improve safety and relieve congestion.
- 2.5 Enable the adoption of new technologies and materials to improve the safety, design, construction, condition monitoring, maintenance and lifecycle of Alberta's road infrastructure investments.

Roads Drive our Economy

- 3.1 Develop a long-term strategy to guide Alberta's road infrastructure investments.
- 3.2 Establish a prioritization framework that schedules infrastructure investments to economic opportunity, environmental and social benefits.
- 3.3 Integrate transportation policies with planning, economic development and other provincial priorities.

New technology, materials engineering and innovation leads the way to better roads

- 4.1 Prioritize innovation in the transportation infrastructure sector to help drive technological advancement and research.
- 4.2 Develop policies that encourage, complement, and accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies.
- 4.3 Improve the rate of technological adoption by providing incentives for partners to capture efficiencies through the adoption of new technologies.
- 4.4 Facilitate the integration of road infrastructure with connected and autonomous vehicles.

Building roads requires a focused effort

- 5.1 Optimize Alberta's existing road infrastructure and effectively use asset management systems to inform decision making.
- 5.2 Develop a transparent, evidence-based prioritization system to establish road infrastructure project priorities.
- 5.3 Establish reliable funding for road infrastructure maintenance and renewal by legally committing 1%-2% of asset value for asset maintenance and preservation.

- 5.4 Explore and consult with Albertans to assess alternative road infrastructure investment mechanisms and funding models.
- 5.5 Encourage greater private sector participation in project delivery.

Good governance benefits all Albertans

- 6.1 Carve out the Corporate Strategies and Delivery Services Division of Alberta Transportation to create an independent agency to oversee transportation infrastructure management, procurement and project contract delivery.
- 6.2 Establish performance and/or service standards for Alberta's road transportation network and contract with the new management agency to deliver.
- 6.3 Develop a transparent and strategic approach for the prioritization and selection of road infrastructure projects to form the delivery agency's accountability contract.
- 6.4 Create a more integrated and coordinated approach to transportation policy and planning within and across all levels of government.
- 6.5 Ensure appropriate transfer of risk between public and private entities.