

**Developing a 50-Year Transportation Strategy for Alberta**  
**Public Discussion Summary**  
**Cochrane Region**  
**February 25, 2014**

***Number of attendees – approximately 60***

*The following summary outlines the main discussion points and comments from those attending the session. It is not meant to represent or record every opinion expressed at the session; rather, it is a compilation of the key points discussed.*

**Vision**

- The strategy's vision should reference a transportation system that is: reliable, proactive, accessible, efficient, timely, multi-modal, affordable (to build and maintain),

**Goals**

- Provide alternative transportation modes adjacent to roads (e.g. trails).
- Proactive planning and a thorough examination of the economics and use of infrastructure is important.
- Maximize the efficiency of the current transportation system before building new infrastructure.
- Improve public transportation, particularly in rural Alberta, and ensure it is affordable and convenient.
- Address safety through education (prevention), enforcement and engineering.
- Use technology to enhance the current transportation system and research and develop new technologies within Alberta.
- Development of the transportation system will respect land ownership, and both respect and maintain the environment.
- All stakeholders will be involved in Infrastructure planning and funding.

**Actions**

- Increase connectivity between modes of transportation.
- Develop a rural public transportation strategy.
- Develop more transportation corridors across the province.
- Increase use of and development of railways for moving both goods and people.
- Combine land-use and corridor planning, and construct more wildlife corridors.
- Undertake 'true cost accounting' for projects, which considers operations, maintenance and amortized costs of replacement.
- Consider user-pay mechanisms such as tolls and infrastructure banks.
- Pursue the redistribution of tax revenue collected by the federal government from fuel purchases in Alberta into projects within the province.

**Overall/Additional Comments**

- Operational funding for transportation infrastructure/services is an issue for municipalities.
- A significant challenge will be influencing modes that are primarily under federal jurisdiction.
- Consider "natural capital" – it supports our economy and the beauty of our province.
- Transportation cannot be a barrier (e.g. an impediment to farmers - bisecting of lands).