

Business Plan

2025-26

Ministry of Highways

Saskatchewan! 

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable David Marit
Minister of Highways*

Our transportation system plays a vital role in Saskatchewan's economic success as it facilitates the effective movement of people and goods across the province. This year's \$777 million investment will deliver on improving road conditions while fostering connectivity between rural and urban areas and neighbouring jurisdictions. We will continue to work to make sure we have a transportation network and regulatory environment that works for our industries and our people.

In 2025-26, the ministry will continue to fulfill its commitments within *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*. The ministry's capital investment of \$421 million will deliver more than 1,000 kilometres of improvements, continuing our progress towards the 10-year goal of improving 10,000 kilometres of highways. This year's work will raise the total to more than 7,000 kilometres after six years.

To enable economic growth while improving safety, the ministry will continue delivering major projects such as Highway 39 twinning at Weyburn and Highway 5 corridor improvements east of Saskatoon. The ministry will also begin passing lanes on Highways 10 and 17 as part of a strategy expanding the number of passing lanes across the province. We will remain focused on upgrading, maintaining, and operating the network through effective planning and partnerships with municipalities. This year's investments will provide easier access to essential services and opportunities for residents and visitors alike, while helping everyone get home safely at the end of the day.

2025-26 Budget Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Support the 10-year Growth Plan targets to build and upgrade 10,000 kilometres by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing \$43.8 million through continuing major multi-year projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highway 39 twinning at Weyburn. • Dedicating \$69.5 million for 95 kilometres of thin membrane surface and other rural highway upgrades, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highway 102 TMS upgrade at LaRonge. • Delivering over 900 kilometres of capital pavement preservation to improve road conditions.
<p>2</p>	<p>Begin passing lane projects on Highways 10 and 17 as part of a strategy to expand the number of passing lanes on Saskatchewan Highways.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Invest \$81.6 million to rebuild or replace 18 bridges and multiple culverts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning the replacement of two overpasses on Highway 2 over Highway 1 at Moose Jaw; and, • Replacing the bridge on Highway 2 over Montreal River near LaRonge.
<p>4</p>	<p>Deliver \$25.4 million through the Safety Improvement Program. This investment improves intersections, guardrails, lighting, and other assets to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Invest \$31.0 million to support a one-network approach by working with partners to fund strategic transportation infrastructure investments and maintenance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rural Integrated Roads for Growth program - \$18.4 million, an increase of \$1.0 million for capital projects; • The Urban Highway Connector Program - \$8.6 million • The Strategic Partnership Program - \$2.2 million for truck route agreements and other municipal partnerships; • The Community Airport Partnership program - \$850,000; and • The Short Line Railway Improvement Program - \$1.0 million, an increase of \$470,000 to support maintaining safe rail operations.

Government Vision and Goals

Saskatchewan's Vision

“...to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.”

>> Government Goals

A Strong Economy

Strong Communities

Strong Families

Saskatchewan's vision and three goals provide the strategic direction for organizations to align their programs and services to build a strong Saskatchewan.

All organizations will report on progress in their 2025-26 annual reports.

Ministry of Highways Overview

Mandate

The ministry manages and provides for the future development of an integrated sustainable provincial transportation system, which supports economic growth and prosperity for Saskatchewan. Our infrastructure investments will be guided by strategic transportation policy and incorporate operating and maintenance practices which promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

Mission

To enable the safe, reliable, and sustainable mobility of people and goods to support Saskatchewan's growth and quality of life.

Vision

Transportation – Connecting Saskatchewan to the world.

Goal 1: Improved Safety and Environmental Sustainability

The ministry works to continually improve road safety, worker safety, environmentally responsible delivery of operations and projects and minimize the impact of transportation on the environment. These are important to ensure the safety of ministry employees, Saskatchewan citizens and their families, as well as ensuring Saskatchewan communities are strong and safe. The ministry takes a proactive, risk-based approach to identify, mitigate, and respond to safety and environmental hazards. We strive to reduce and prevent serious injuries and fatalities through multi-year investments in road safety and infrastructure.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Target reductions in fatalities and injuries by delivering safety improvements on the transportation system.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Continue to implement the road safety strategy to reduce fatalities and injuries from collisions. The strategy is focused on intersections, dark driving conditions, single vehicles running off the road and collisions with wildlife.
 - Invest \$25.4 million towards the ministry's Safety Improvement Program with projects like guardrail, lighting, and intersection improvements.
 - Deliver the pavement marking program to provide visible pavement lines for the safe flow of traffic.
 - Deliver the signing stewardship program to rehabilitate, replace and install new signs to keep the overall condition of the approximately 125,000 regulatory, warning, guide, and information signs on the provincial network in good condition.
 - Deliver the mowing program, which will achieve approximately 44,500 hectares of mowing along highway right of ways.
- Improve traffic flow and increase safety through the construction and planning of major capacity and safety improvement projects, including:
 - Highway 10 and Highway 17 passing lanes as part of an ongoing passing lane strategy;
 - Highway 39 corridor twinning at Weyburn; and
 - Continuing corridor improvements on Highway 5 east of Saskatoon.
- Ensure rail line safety through inspections and safety management plan audits.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Foster a safety culture in the workplace by enforcing an injury prevention strategy to pursue Mission Zero.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Communicate safe driving practices to the public through the Work Zone and Snow Zone campaigns to reinforce slowing to 60 km/h in work zones and driving safely when approaching snowplows.

- Reinforce safe workplace practices and behaviors by conducting work zone audits on construction projects and maintenance activities.
- Continue to deliver and improve the Ministry’s Health and Safety Management System to achieve and sustain a healthy and safe workplace.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Support a well-informed transportation user by communicating road conditions.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Continue to provide accurate, timely and reliable road information for travelers through the [Highway Hotline](#).
- Continue to invest in Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices such as cameras, variable message signs, road weather information systems, and traffic counters to increase the accuracy and timeliness of information available to transportation users.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Provide environmental stewardship on all ministry activities through responsible operations, maintenance, and project delivery.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Perform audits to assess project delivery and compliance with federal and provincial environmental regulations.
- Explore and implement environmentally sustainable approaches for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining the transportation system.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Reduction in fatality and injury collisions rate

Target = five-year (2021 to 2025) rolling average of 8.9 collisions per 100 million vehicle kilometres traveled

- A five-year rolling average collision rate for fatality and injury collisions is used to track highway safety over time. The ministry aims to reduce the rate through operations and maintenance practices and infrastructure safety improvements delivered through the road safety strategy. Focus areas of the safety strategy are incidents relating to dark driving conditions, intersections, single vehicles running off the road and wildlife.

Per cent of provincially regulated railway Safety Management Plans (SMP) audited on a five-year cycle

Target = 100 per cent of plans on file with the ministry by March 31, 2027

- Safety management plans are used by industry and the ministry to ensure that procedures are in place to prevent or address rail incidents. To obtain an operating license from the Highway Traffic Board, it is a requirement of short line and industrial rail lines to have a safety management plan. The SMP audit includes a review of records, as well as a physical inspection that are conducted utilizing a risk-based approach on a 3, 4 or 5-year cycle.

Per cent of short line inspections performed within specified timelines

Target = 100 per cent

- There are 1,224 short line public grade crossings and 2,148 kilometres of short line track in the province. A crossing is where the rail line intersects with a road. The ministry inspects the crossings on a four-year cycle to ensure the safe movement of rail cars and recommends repairs to the short line companies. The ministry inspects rail lines on a three-year cycle to ensure the safe movement of rail cars and recommends repairs to the short line and industrial rail line companies.

Number of safety incidents in work zones and snow zones

- This is a measure of safety incidents occurring in ministry work zones and snow zones. An incident is an unplanned event that results in or has the potential to result in injury or property damage. A work zone is a controlled and marked area where active work is ongoing, typically noted with work zone signage. Snow zone incidents are between the public and a snowplow. The ministry educates road users through advertising campaigns and work zone signage to influence drivers to encourage safe driving practices and to plan ahead using the Highway Hotline.

Goal 2: Improved Road Conditions

The ministry maintains over 26,400 kilometres of highways, the largest per capita network in Canada. The ministry strives to optimize asset life cycles and ensure quality work and service levels as an important part of reliable and safe access for Saskatchewan’s communities and businesses. This goal is about preserving and maintaining roads and bridges, addressing aging infrastructure, and providing road users with reliability and comfort on the road. This goal also delivers on the 10-year Growth Plan goals to build and upgrade 10,000 kilometres of highways, including over 2,000 kilometres of thin membrane surface (TMS) roads, as well as rebuilding 200 bridges and replacing 2,000 culverts to support a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Maintain and rehabilitate provincially owned transportation infrastructure to improve the driving experience and optimize the service life of provincial highways.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

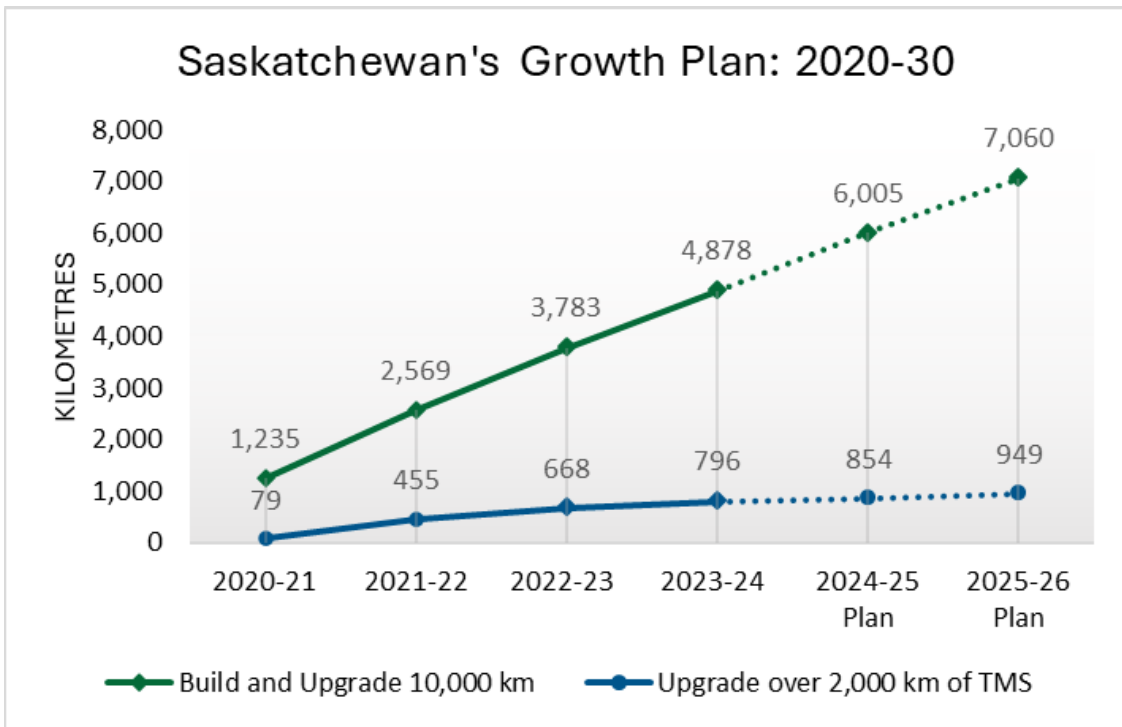
- Deliver 200 kilometres of repaving of highways, which renews the pavement’s life cycle by restoring it to new condition.
- Deliver 245 kilometres of medium pavement treatments like thin overlays or micro-surfacing, which primarily mitigate rutting and improve longevity.
- Deliver 480 kilometres of light pavement treatments like sealcoats, which seal the surface from moisture and increase longevity.
- Deliver 95 kilometres of upgrades to rural provincial highways.
- Deliver 30 kilometres of gravel surface rehabilitation projects.
- Extend the service life and ensure the adequacy of bridge and drainage structures:
 - Replace 16 short span bridges at the end of their service life with new bridges or culverts;
 - Complete major repairs on two bridges to extend the service life of large span bridges; and
 - Replace over 100 culverts.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Number of kilometres that are built or upgraded

Target = 10,000 kilometres by 2029-30

- The ministry continues to support Growth Plan goals by delivering improvements like expanding the number of passing lanes or twinned highways, pavement treatments and thin membrane surface improvements, such as light pavement construction, spot improvements, and upgrading some highways to good sustainable gravel surfaces.



Number of bridges and culverts replaced or rehabilitated

Target = 200 bridges and 2,000 culverts by 2029-30

- The ministry uses a bridge condition index to assess the general health of the provincial bridge inventory. This is used to identify and prioritize structures that need replacing or rehabilitation.

Per cent of pavement in fair to very good condition on the National Highway System (NHS)

Target = 90 per cent

- The ministry maintains over 16,340 kilometres of paved highway, including 4,025 kilometres on the NHS. The ministry uses a measure of roughness to represent road condition. This information, when combined with other data, determines when repaving or other pavement preservation treatments are needed.

Goal 3: Improved Mobility for People and Goods

The ministry takes a one-network approach to municipal and provincial transportation system integration to better utilize the existing network, connect people and goods through multiple modes of transportation, and achieve economic growth and quality of life outcomes. We work with community and industry partners, and other jurisdictions to plan and fund strategic transportation investments.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Work with stakeholders and community partners to manage traffic demand and improve transportation asset conditions through a one-network approach.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Invest \$18.4 million through the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) program. RIRG is a partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities for municipal road and bridge enhancement and preservation.
 - Deliver \$9.9 million for rural road operations and maintenance through the Clearing the Path program.
 - Deliver \$8.5 million for capital rural road and bridge improvements.
- Deliver and maintain alternate truck route partnerships to optimize the utilization of existing infrastructure.
- Work with rural municipalities and stakeholders to create new construction and maintenance partnerships to improve and sustain the network.
- Invest \$8.6 million through the Urban Highway Connector Program to improve efficiency, connectivity, and the surface condition of roads through urban centres.
- Invest \$850,000 through the Community Airport Partnership program to advance rehabilitation, construction, and capital investments in community airport infrastructure; and
- Invest \$1.0 million through the Short Line Railway Improvement Program to support the short line rail industry in maintaining rail infrastructure.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Ensure the safe and reliable flow of goods and people by efficiently managing a multi-modal transportation system.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Deliver the Transportation Partnership Program to contribute to the commercial vehicle efficiency of partnering companies shipping goods to or from their Saskatchewan facilities.
- Invest in capital upgrades at ministry airports to improve access and safety, including planning for future projects to be delivered through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

- Invest \$122.3 million to improve and maintain transportation infrastructure in northern Saskatchewan.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Identify and develop transportation options to improve Saskatchewan’s competitiveness, by working proactively with the province’s export and transportation sectors, other western provinces, the federal government, and the U.S.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Promote economic competitiveness by advocating for investment in the national transportation system and collaborating with other jurisdictions.
- Facilitate the efficient transportation of goods on trade corridors through strengthening harmonization.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Per cent of thin membrane surface highways managed using partnerships

Target = 17 per cent

- This measure reflects the strategic partnerships that are assisting the ministry in maintaining reliable access. These partnerships with municipalities involve the utilization of municipal roads to re-route heavy vehicles that would otherwise damage sensitive segments of the provincial highway network.

Per cent availability of the highway network

Target = 99.99 per cent

- This measure is used to determine highway network reliability. It is a measure of kilometres closed for various reasons, including extreme weather and collisions.

Per cent availability of provincially operated ferries

Target = 98 per cent

- This measure shows the reliability of the 12 provincially operated ferries. It is a measure of scheduled availability against time lost for various reasons, including water levels and weather conditions.

Per cent availability of airport services at provincially operated airports

Target = 98 per cent

- This measure shows the reliability of the 16 provincially operated airports. It is a measure of scheduled availability against time lost for various reasons, including weather conditions.

Per cent of single trip permits issued within 24 hours

Target = 98 per cent

- Single trip permits are required for vehicle configurations that exceed vehicle weight and dimension regulations for a particular route. Permitting is offered to ensure efficient travel for commercial vehicles while protecting road infrastructure assets. This is a measure of the efficiency of the permitting system in serving industry.

Goal 4: Commitment to Excellence

Healthy, engaged, and capable employees are instrumental to living the Government of Saskatchewan's core values and driving ministry success. The ministry strives to provide high-quality customer service by promoting accountability, innovation and effective leadership, tools, and systems. We focus on building capacity and strong teams that support a continuously improving and adaptable organization.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Foster an accountable, solution-focused, and knowledgeable workforce by enhancing employee engagement and inclusion.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Support workplace initiatives that foster employee wellness, inclusion, and community and align with the Employee Culture and Engagement Survey and Safety Survey results.
- Promote and support learning and development opportunities to grow talent and maintain corporate knowledge.

Strategy: *The approach we will take to achieve our goal*

Promote and strengthen a citizen-centred organization with effective tools, processes and systems through continuous improvement and innovation.

Key Actions: *What we will do to get there*

- Continuously improve project delivery through engaging with stakeholders and working together to promote innovation, collaboration and quality solutions.
- Provide citizens and industry with easy access to services and information through the ministry's [Customer Service Centre](#) and the trucking inquiry line.

Performance Measures: *What success looks like*

Customer satisfaction in their interaction with the ministry's Customer Service Centre

Target = 2.5 and above for overall customer satisfaction and 3 and above for ease of access

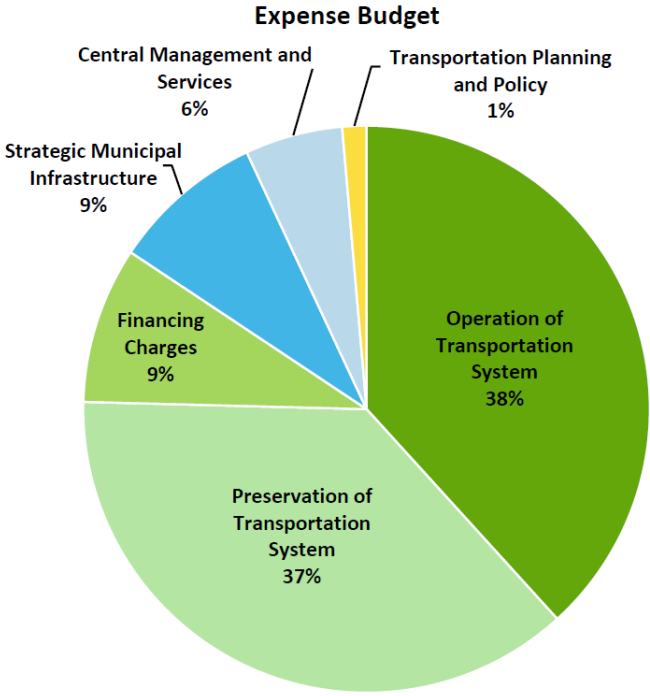
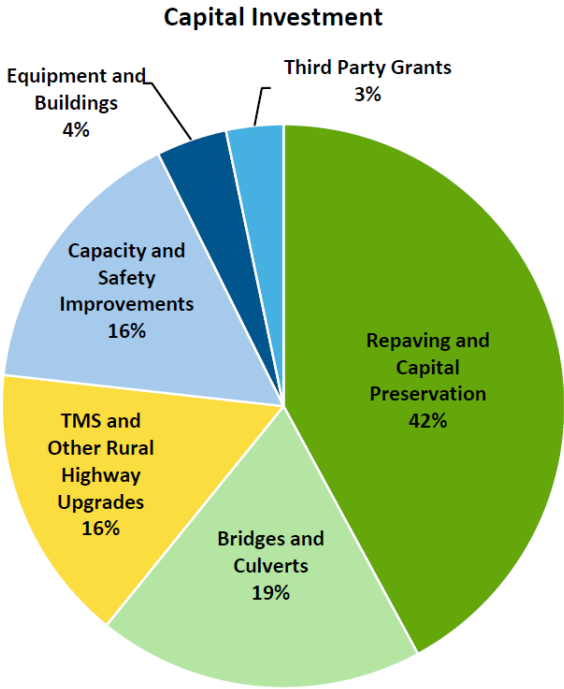
- The ministry's strategic direction prioritizes citizen-centered services. The Customer Service Centre aims to help the people of Saskatchewan easily access information by serving as a single point of contact for inquiries, complaints, and vehicle damage claims. This measure represents the Customer Service Centre's ability to consistently deliver high quality service and is measured on a scale of 1 being very unsatisfied to 5 being very satisfied.

2025-26 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

1	Enhancing Snowplow Visibility <p>Snowplows often operate in hazardous conditions, such as during snowstorms or when visibility is low. It can be challenging for drivers to see snowplows while they are clearing snow, as they can create a mini-blizzard behind them. The ministry has successfully tested modifications to flashing lights on snowplows and over the next three years plans to install the additional lighting to approximately 300 snowplows. This improvement will enhance the visibility of snowplows, making it easier for drivers to identify them and, in turn, should reduce collisions during low visibility conditions.</p>
2	Modernizing Bridge Inspections Using Aerial Drones <p>The ministry oversees an extensive network of 697 bridges across the province, which serve as vital components of the provincial transportation system. Monitoring and assessing the structural integrity of these bridges is a complex and challenging task, often necessitating the deployment of specialized equipment to access hard-to-reach locations. In response to these challenges, the ministry has recently initiated the integration of aerial drones for bridge inspections. This innovative approach not only alleviates the need for cumbersome specialized equipment, which is costly and disrupts traffic flow, but also enhances the efficiency and safety of the inspection process. To facilitate the systematic use of drones for these purposes, the ministry will be developing a comprehensive framework for the application of aerial drone technology in bridge monitoring and inspection. This will improve documentation associated with inspections and ensure consistent usage and training.</p>
3	Updating Highways Public Data Portals <p>The ministry manages public data portals which serve as comprehensive resources for both geospatial and non-geospatial datasets that are developed and/or maintained by the ministry. These platforms are designed to facilitate public access to important data that can aid in transportation planning, infrastructure management, and various research initiatives. To enhance the user experience and ensure that stakeholders have access to the most current information, the ministry plans to update its public data portals. This initiative will include the addition of new datasets, improvements to site functionality and applications, and updates to existing information, enabling users to better navigate and utilize the resources available.</p>

Financial Summary

Ministry of Highways 2025-26 Estimates (\$777 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$19,833
Preservation of Transportation System	\$132,285
Transportation Planning and Policy	\$4,912
Infrastructure and Equipment Capital	\$421,396
Custom Work Activity	-
Operation of Transportation System	\$167,974
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure	\$31,017
Total Appropriation	\$777,417
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$(421,396)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$289,858
Total Expense	\$645,879



Links to More Information

- [Ministry of Highways](#)
- [Government of Saskatchewan Budget, Planning and Reporting](#)