

Business Plan

2026-27

Ministry of Highways

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable Kim Gartner
Minister of Highways*

Saskatchewan's transportation system helps people and goods move safely and efficiently across the province every day. It connects our industries and communities with markets, both local and global, supporting businesses, services, families, and our economy. Through ongoing investment and careful planning, building, and maintenance, the ministry is helping keep Saskatchewan connected, competitive, and growing—today and into the future.

In 2026-27, the ministry will continue to deliver on its commitments within Saskatchewan's Growth Plan: The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030. This year's investment will deliver 850 kilometres of improvements, bringing the total to over 7,900 km after 7 years.

This year we are investing over \$400 million in capital to preserve and improve our provincial transportation network. This includes \$180 million on pavement preservation or repaving and \$38 million on Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) and rural highway improvements. We are also continuing our investment in passing lanes and safety improvements, ensuring we invest in road enhancements that help get everyone home safely.

The ministry will report on progress made toward this plan in the 2026-27 Annual Report.

2026-27 Budget Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Support the 10-year <i>Saskatchewan Growth Plan</i> target to build and upgrade 10,000 kilometres by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing \$43.7 million on major multi-year projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highway 2 twinning North of Prince Albert; and ○ Highway 5 twinning East of Saskatoon near Highway 316. • Dedicating \$38.0 million for 50 kilometres of thin membrane surface and other rural highway improvements, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Highway 106, South of Highway 120; and ○ Highway 47, North of Springside. • Delivering 750 kilometres of capital pavement preservation to improve road conditions.
<p>2</p>	<p>Complete 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 \$78.7 million to rebuild or replace 13 bridges and multiple culverts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing the replacement of overpasses on Highway 2 over Highway 1 at Moose Jaw; and • Replacing the bridge on Highway 955 over Clearwater River.
<p>4</p>	<p>Deliver \$20.1 million for safety improvement projects. This investment improves intersections, guardrails, lighting, and other assets to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Invest \$33.0 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 - \$20.4 million, an increase of \$2.0 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 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 2026-27 Annual Reports.

Ministry of Highways Overview

Overview

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 that 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 \$20.1 million towards safety improvement 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:
 - Completing Highway 10 and Highway 17 passing lanes;
 - Beginning Highway 2 twinning North of Prince Albert; and
 - Continuing corridor improvements on Highway 5 with twinning East of Saskatoon near Highway 316.
- 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.
- Continue to improve on healthy and safe workplaces and work zones by delivering the Ministry's Health and Safety Management System.

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*

- Deliver projects and maintenance in 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 (2022 to 2026) rolling average of 8.2 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 railway companies go through an inspection and audit a minimum of once every 5 years.

- 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 licence 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 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 three-year cycle to ensure the safe movement of rail cars and recommends repairs to the short line companies, with a target of approximately 408 crossings each year.

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*

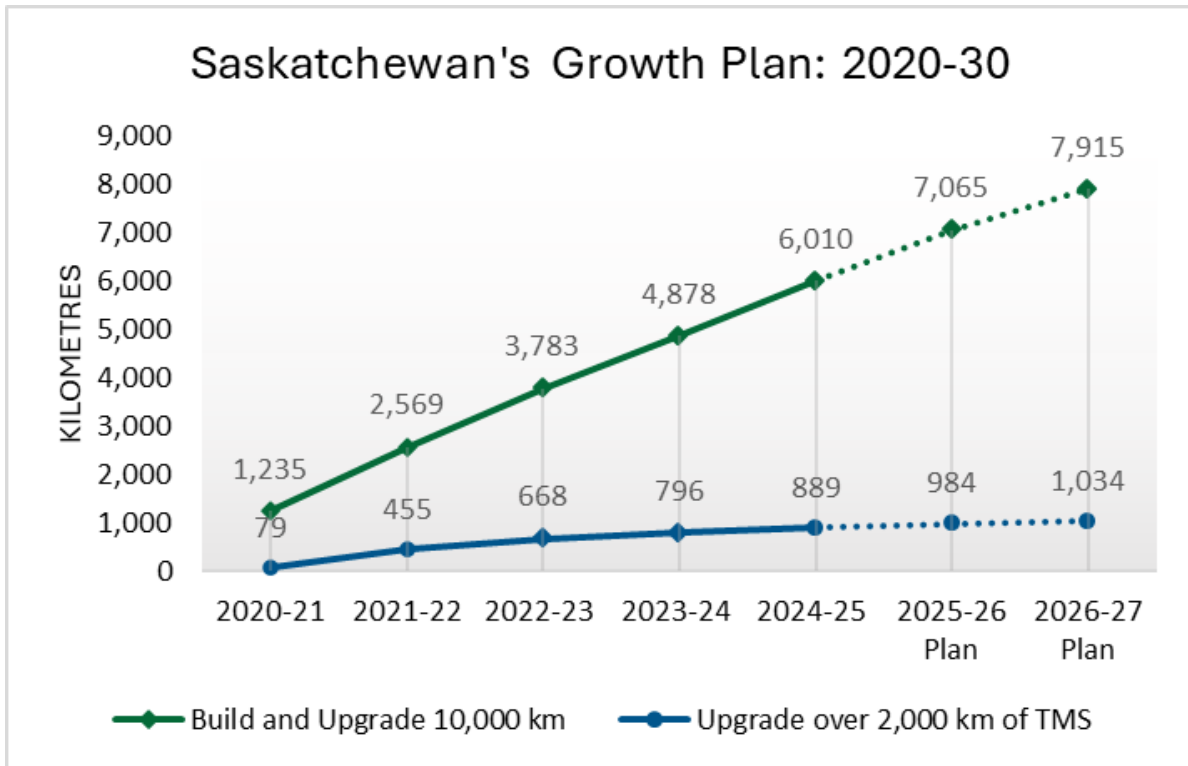
- Deliver 260 kilometres of repaving of highways, which renews the pavement's life cycle by restoring it to new condition.
- Deliver 140 kilometres of medium pavement treatments like thin overlays or micro-surfacing, which primarily mitigate rutting and improve longevity.
- Deliver 350 kilometres of light pavement treatments like sealcoats, which seal the surface from moisture and increase longevity.
- Deliver 50 kilometres of improvements to rural provincial highways.
- Deliver 20 kilometres of gravel surface rehabilitation projects.
- Extend the service life and ensure the adequacy of bridge and drainage structures:
 - Replace 11 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 method 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 16,380 kilometres of paved highway, including 4,004 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 \$20.4 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 \$10.5 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.
- 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 \$83.1 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

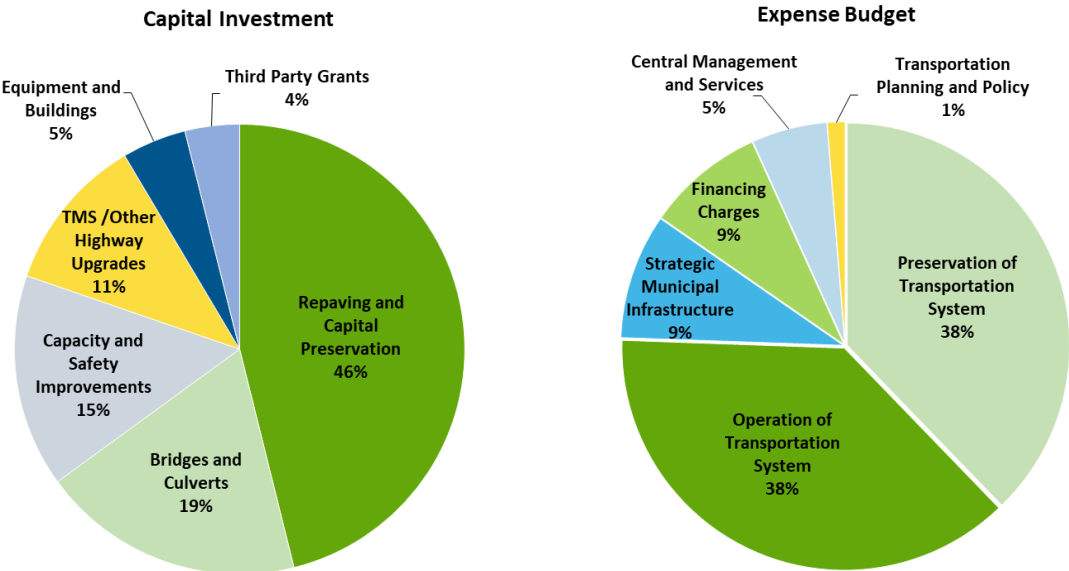
- The ministry's strategic direction prioritizes citizen-centered services. The Customer Service Centre aims to help the people of Saskatchewan easily access information by serving as a single point of contact for inquiries, complaints, and vehicle damage claims. This measure represents the Customer 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.

2026-27 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>Enhanced LED Crossbucks Pilot Program</p> <p>Railway crossing collisions are a safety risk. Vehicles must yield the right of way to trains at crossings, and crossbucks are the traffic signs used to indicate level railway crossings. The ministry is testing a new, more visible railway crossing sign that uses flashing LED lights to help drivers better detect trains at crossings without gates or signals. The system can also identify broken rails and alert railway operators, creating an added safety feature. The pilot began in November 2025 with installation of the new LED crossbucks at a crossing on Highway 41. The pilot project evaluation and monitoring of the system will continue throughout 2026. If successful, the system may be installed at additional crossings in the province which could help reduce collisions and improve safety at rural rail crossings.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) Rehabilitation Treatments</p> <p>A TMS road is designed as a dust-free surface and not designed to handle heavy traffic. In 2023-24 the ministry began delivering TMS capital rehabilitation treatments. TMS rehabilitations are completed on roads with a low traffic volume as an alternative to upgrading the road to a pavement where primary weight access is not required. The cost of this work is estimated to be less than fifty per cent of upgrading to a pavement surface and less than twenty percent the cost of upgrading to a primary weight road which is required for heavy trucks. This allows the ministry to provide smooth dust free TMS improvements for less dollars per km. This type of treatment typically consists of blading or roto mixing the surface, adding some base material and finishing with a seal coat.</p> <p>In 2026-27 the ministry is planning to deliver dust free TMS rehabilitations to Highway 13 - Bellegarde Access Road, Highway 47 North of Springside, and Highway 44 at Danielson Provincial Park.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Saskatchewan’s Aviation Strategy</p> <p>In October 2025, the provincial aviation strategy was publicly released. After extensive stakeholder consultation, key sector issues were identified including connectivity, community airports, supporting aviation training, leveraging new technology, and reviewing federal regulations with consideration for Saskatchewan’s requirements. The ministry will utilize this guiding document to engage with the aviation sector. Improving aviation takes a coordinated approach across governments, jurisdictions, and the private sector to develop positive policy and investment choices. Supporting and improving aviation can assist the provincial economy and people’s access to medical and safety services. Through engagement with stakeholders at all levels the ministry will utilize this framework to deliver on improvements.</p>

Financial Summary

Ministry of Highways 2026-27 Estimates (\$764 million)	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	\$19,891
Preservation of Transportation System	\$137,085
Transportation Planning and Policy	\$4,672
Infrastructure and Equipment Capital	\$400,866
Custom Work Activity	-
Operation of Transportation System	\$168,174
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure	\$33,017
Total Appropriation	\$763,705
Capital Asset Acquisitions	\$(400,866)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	\$306,396
Total Expense	\$669,235



Links to more information

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