

Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program

About the Program

The Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) is a provincial grant funding program that provides financial assistance to rural and smaller urban municipalities to develop and maintain key local transportation infrastructure, such as local road bridges, community airports and resource roads. The goal of the program is to promote economic growth, support job creation and improves mobility and local connectivity.

There are four components within STIP:

- Local Road Bridges (LRB)
- Resource Road Program (RRP)
- Community Airport Program (CAP)
- Local Municipal Initiative (LMI)



Program Benefits

Key outcomes for the program include improved accessibility and movement of goods and people, increased capacity of municipal transportation infrastructure to support economic growth, enhanced safety and efficiency and the extension of the service life of key transportation infrastructure.

Applications are reviewed and assessed to confirm proposed projects meet program criteria. Projects are then rated on a province-wide, competitive basis.

Factors that contribute to the rating of each project include:

- Basic need
- Safety
- Functionality
- Implications for the provincial transportation network
- Current condition of infrastructure
- Total traffic volumes
- Truck traffic volumes
- Cost effectiveness and efficiency
- Collaboration or partnership with industry or other municipalities or Metis Settlements
- Economic, social, environmental or innovation benefits
- Use of alternate sources to fund the project (i.e. federal or private investment)



Approved Projects

Budget 2015 restored \$100 million in funding to STIP after this program was unfunded for new projects for the three previous years. Budget 2017 dedicates \$100 million over three years—2017-18 to 2019-2020. The application process for 2017-18 projects began in fall 2016. Eighty-seven projects have been approved for more than \$37 million in STIP grants in 2017-2018 in 50 municipalities across the province:

- **Local Road Bridges – 67 projects receiving \$21.3 million** in provincial funding. The contribution breakdown for this program is 75 per cent provincial and 25 per cent municipal funding.
- **Resource Road Program – Five projects receiving \$9.3 million** in provincial funding. This program provides 50 per cent provincial and 50 per cent municipal funding, to a maximum provincial grant amount of \$3 million per project. Municipalities are encouraged to acquire 25 per cent of their contribution from the private sector that will benefit from the Resource Road project.
- **Local Municipal Initiatives – Nine projects receiving \$4.6 million** in provincial funding. This component supports initiatives that are not eligible for funding under other STIP components, such as highway de-designations and park access road paving, or emergent, special-need municipal projects that address significant local or regional pressures. The provincial/municipal contribution percentages vary based on project scoring.
- **Community Airport Program – Six projects receiving \$2 million** in provincial funding. The contribution breakdown for this program is 75 per cent provincial and 25 per cent municipal funding.

Consultation

The Government of Alberta consulted with municipal partners and key stakeholders prior to calling for new STIP applications in fall 2016.

Feedback was gathered on the program vision and principles, asset scope and funding criteria through:

- A March 2016 workshop with more than 100 participants;
- Three sessions with small urban municipalities;
- An online survey to 170 rural and urban municipalities, Metis Settlements and other stakeholders; and
- An internal engagement session with Alberta Municipal Affairs, Alberta Transportation and the Metis Settlement General Council.

What's New?

Enhanced project eligibility:

- Runway lighting is now eligible for funding under the Community Airport Program.
- Roads that support existing industry (in addition to new or expanded industry) are now eligible for funding under the Resource Road Program.

Streamlined eligibility process:

- The previous Local Road Bridge program was complex to administer—different bridge assets were funded at varying levels. The new program funds all bridge structure components at the same percentage—75 per cent provincial funding and 25 per cent municipal funding.

Enhanced application criteria:

- Projects that show economic, social and environmental benefits, and use innovative construction materials or practices that reduce project costs or environmental impacts will receive additional weighting in the application review process.
- Projects that leverage alternative funding sources, from the public or private sector, will receive additional weighting in the application review process.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.transportation.alberta.ca/5408.htm>