



Saskatchewan
Highways and
Transportation

Transportation

for Economic Advantage

Prosperous communities for the 21st century and beyond.

Urban Connectors

Urban Connectors are urban municipal roads that connect to provincial highways. Saskatchewan's cities and towns are the hubs for export trade, and efficient and safe transportation connections are needed to ensure continuity in the supply chain, improve inter-modal connections and support urban growth. Our export industries need seamless connections to, through and from urban communities to ensure the efficient flow of commodities.

From the urban perspective, as cities grow and expand, congestion and safety concerns increase. Rapid growth means solutions to these infrastructure challenges are more expensive and beyond the capacity of any one level of government to build and sustain.

The solution is Transportation for Economic Advantage's Urban Connector Policy.

Urban Connector Policy

The Urban Connector Policy will provide funding for highway connectors in urban communities, enhancing the quality of provincial transportation links through urban centers that serve the economic and development interests of the province and the municipality.

This policy will provide a framework for funding urban highway connectors based on shared provincial and municipal interests and aligned with the following principles:

- equitable treatment of urban municipalities;
- transparent and consistent policy framework;
- efficient movement of people and goods;
- enhanced traffic safety in urban areas;
- improved level of service on urban connectors; and
- enhanced transportation planning to meet future transportation demands.

Benefits include:

- reducing bottlenecks in urban centres
- creating an integrated provincial-urban network to support improved movement of people and goods; and
- supporting existing economic development and attracting new investment opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Policy Framework

An urban municipality's participation in the Urban Connector Policy is completely voluntary. Provincial legislation dictates that urban municipalities located south of the Northern Administrative District (NAD) with a population of 1,000 or more have administrative control of the highways in their communities. It is these municipalities that will be eligible for funding (there are currently 59 in the province). Provincial highway connectors through smaller southern communities and communities in the NAD will continue to remain the responsibility of the Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation.

The funding framework considers the level of mobility, continuity and connectivity an urban connector provides for the movement of passengers and freight. The level of provincial funding reflects provincial interest in the route.

The Province will maintain responsibility for urban connector highways on the National Highway System (Highways 1, 7, 11, 16 and portions of Highways 2, 6, 10 and 39), that are assigned the highest level of provincial interest.

Municipalities are eligible for funding for projects in four categories:

1. Urban capital road/structure investment;
2. Routine operations and maintenance;
3. Pavement/bridge structure rehabilitation; and
4. Transportation planning studies.

The Urban Connector policy is planned for full implementation by April 2008, providing an opportunity for urban municipalities to review the policy, and to allow time for projects to be identified and designed so they can be built during the 2008 construction season.

Transportation for Economic Advantage

Through *Transportation for Economic Advantage*, the provincial transportation strategy, \$5 billion will be invested in the Saskatchewan's transportation network over the next 10 years. Investments are targeted at six key pillars:

- International Gateways and Corridors;
- Rural Economic Corridors;
- Urban Connectors;
- *Roads to Prosperity*, the Northern Economic Infrastructure Strategy;
- First Nations Connections; and
- The Shortline Rail and Regional Airports Strategy.

This strategy will see the provincial transportation system realigned to support our growing and dynamic economy, and anticipate future areas of economic growth.

Approximately 70 per cent of all the goods and services produced in the province in a single year are exported to other provinces and countries; as such, our transportation system must provide efficient delivery of these products, supporting increased levels of economic activity and encouraging future growth.

For more on Transportation for Economic Advantage, go to www.highways.gov.sk.ca.