



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

December 14, 2022

AR 91722

Cathy Heron
President
Alberta Municipalities
300 - 8616 - 51 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6E 6E6
president@abmunis.ca

Dear Ms. Heron:

Thank you for your email sharing the Alberta Municipalities 2022 resolutions. As important partners to the work Transportation and Economic Corridors undertakes, I appreciate your organization outlining the issues Alberta municipalities face.

Resolution B2: Transportation Infrastructure Funding and Resolution

Your resolution recommendation was shared with the Ministry of Infrastructure and the department will respond to your inquiry directly.

Resolution B3: Operational Transit Funding for Small to Medium Sized Municipalities

Transportation and Economic Corridors understands the unique issues facing rural Albertans and the importance of public transportation. My department continues to work with rural municipalities to hear concerns and consider options to support public transportation for their residents.

Public transit was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier this year, we urged the federal government to provide greater support for public transit by expanding eligibility under the Rural Transit Solutions Fund. The intercity busing industry is an essential backbone of the transportation system for individuals who live in rural and remote communities without access to transit options, and who would otherwise be left without access to essential services.

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Resolution B4: Grant Alignment with Provincial Regulatory Requirements

Both Transportation and Economic Corridors, and Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) work with system owners to both ensure expectations are clear up front, and to understand potential timelines and critical paths from design to construction. EPA is responsible for the regulatory approvals while my department is responsible for providing grant funding to municipalities. The process of constructing a water/wastewater facility requires regulatory approval from EPA. After obtaining approval, a municipality may apply to Transportation and Economic Corridors to obtain grant funding to assist with the construction of their water/wastewater facility. If municipalities have their own funding, they can proceed with their project. The application for regulatory approvals are mandatory while the application for grant funding is optional. My department is committed to working with the EPA to find opportunities to streamline process and regulatory requirements for our municipal partners.

Resolution B9: Policing Fines and Penalties Revenue Sharing

The distribution of fines and penalties for provincial statute offences under the *Traffic Safety Act* (TSA) is calculated based on where the offence takes place and how law enforcement in that area is funded. Although the province retains 40 per cent of TSA fines and imposes a 20 per cent surcharge on all provincial statute fines and a 30 per cent surcharge on selective federal statute offences, the revenue collected covers initiatives that support the entire province. Revenues not only fund collection operations but also Alberta's Victims of Crime and Public Safety Fund, which provides funding for victims of crime, as well as funding to public safety initiatives such as RAPID Response, hiring of Crown Prosecutors, Drug Court, and the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Team.

Resolution C1: Cannabis Plant Limits (Medical Certificate) for Residential Properties

Regarding cannabis plant limits with a medical certificate for residential properties, Alberta Municipalities should engage the federal government. The association may also wish to connect with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to seek greater clarity on the interplay between federal medical cannabis legislation and regulations and municipal land use planning matters.

Resolution C5: *Traffic Safety Act* for Angle Parking in Cul-de-Sacs

The TSA and the Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation are designed to ensure consistency and traffic safety across the province. Municipalities have the ability to create by-laws that address issues within the requirements of legislation. I appreciate your members' concerns that municipal resources are being used to implement procedures to address cul-de sacs. Transportation and Economic Corridors will take these concerns into consideration during a future legislative review.

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Thank you again for sharing the Alberta Municipalities 2022 resolutions. Municipalities provide Albertans with essential services on a daily basis and serve an important role in major infrastructure projects throughout the province. I hope the information provided is helpful.

Sincerely,



Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

cc: Honourable Nathan Neudorf, Deputy Premier and Minister of Infrastructure
Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Honourable Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Mike Ellis, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services