

Preparing for Alberta's Growth by Securing Transportation/Utility Corridors

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Background:

By 2028, Alberta's population of 3.5 million is expected to swell to five million. More residents will generate larger volumes of traffic, boost demand for utility services, and increase the likelihood of intermunicipal land-use conflicts.

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) believes the province can help pre-empt impending growth issues by acquiring a radiating network of transportation/utility corridors (TUCs) that can serve a multitude of purposes, now and in the future.

TUCs are vital for long-term planning between communities. They provide guaranteed corridors for transmission lines, pipelines, regional municipal utilities, telecommunications, and transportation. A network of TUCs will also reduce land-use conflicts, improve integration of communities, and encourage the development of a single dynamic economic region for Alberta.

A proactive TUC strategy to link all of Alberta's urban centres and regions will not only help the Alberta government plan for future growth, it will provide the opportunity to develop a world-class provincial network of highways, rail lines and transit systems designed to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods and people.

Creating an integrated plan to secure these critical TUC corridors is a fundamental step to proactive provincial planning, and doing so quickly will save significant funds. Should the government fail to act soon, the cost of acquiring TUCs throughout Alberta may become prohibitive and cause our province to forgo the opportunity that exists to shape our province's future in such a visionary fashion.

ACC believes the Alberta government can provide strong leadership by acquiring all the future corridors needed for the kind of farsighted planning that will greatly enhance Albertans' quality of life.

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce recommends the Government of Alberta:

1. Continue to develop a provincewide transportation/utility corridor plan that will serve to integrate all urban centres and regions in Alberta.
2. Implement this proactive plan by securing transportation/utility corridor rights of way throughout Alberta with the potential for rapid transit, freight networks, telecommunications, regional municipal utilities, transmission lines, pipelines, and the development of a comprehensive transportation system.

**This policy was developed in conjunction with the following Chambers of Commerce: St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Sherwood Park, Red Deer and Calgary.*