

Transportation Network in the Heartland

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Road Network

Alberta's Industrial Heartland's network of roads, including highways, bridges, and intersections, is the component of the transportation system with the single biggest impact on the local community. The road network is relied upon for commuting to work, transporting goods and services, transferring modules and large equipment, ensuring access for emergency responders, and the general movement of people throughout the region.

Industrial development, along with municipal and population growth, result in additional pressures on the region's road network. Infrastructure that could once accommodate the residential and industrial traffic is now experiencing increased congestion. As well, a heavy haul corridor is critical for future industrial development.

Recent Transportation Studies

In 2011, a transportation study was completed specifically for the Heartland region. The final report and recommendations, which incorporated feedback from two public open houses, included infrastructure improvements to specific highways and intersections in and around the Heartland region as well as bussing construction workers from predetermined park and ride locations. In 2012, the Capital Region Board completed an Integrated Regional Transportation System Study to act as a template for modernization of the transportation network in the entire Capital Region, including the Heartland. Both studies complement other initiatives and form an important part of the overall transportation plan for the region.

Current Planning Initiatives

Recent notable traffic incidents, including multiple collisions and blockage of the Highway 15 bridge over the North Saskatchewan River, reenergized discussion about the Heartland's transportation network.

In June, several regional associations met with Alberta's Minister of Transportation and Government of Alberta representatives to discuss the matter. As a result, a review of the existing transportation network is underway by the regional associations and other key stakeholders. This will help identify and prioritize improvements to meet the growing need for the movement of people as well as heavy haul corridors. It includes the need for a secondary bridge to the south of the City of Fort Saskatchewan as well as improvement to interchanges in Sturgeon County. Once completed, this review will be provided to the Government of Alberta for consideration and inclusion in their short and long term capital planning.

*Brought to you by **Life in the Heartland**, a partnership aimed at improving access to information, resources, and contacts for residents in and around Alberta's Industrial Heartland. For more information, visit www.lifeintheheartland.com, email info@lifeintheheartland.com or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LifeintheHeartland.*