



ALBERTA
INFRASTRUCTURE
TRANSPORTATION

*Office of the Minister
Government House Leader
MLA, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood*

April 6, 2017

AR 70293

Mr. Harry Gross
President and Chair of the Board
Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce
200 Commerce House
529 – 6 Street South
Lethbridge, AB T1J 2E1

Dear Mr. Gross:

Thank you for your recent letter sharing your support for local transportation projects that encourage economic development in southern Alberta.

I have heard from a number of people and organizations that support the twinning of Highway 3 from the British Columbia-Alberta border to Medicine Hat. Alberta Transportation has partnered with the Highway 3 Twinning Development Association to conduct a benefit-cost study for the twinning. The study should be completed this spring.

Alberta Transportation is also conducting two functional planning studies this year: one from Crowsnest Lake to Pincher Creek, and the other from Taber to Burdett. These studies, which will take at least two years to complete, will determine the ultimate twinning requirements. At this time, the twinning of Highway 3 is not on Alberta Transportation's three-year Provincial Construction Program. It will continue to be considered in the context of provincial priorities and funding availability.

Should you have further questions about the twinning of Highway 3, please contact Mr. Jerry Lau, Infrastructure Manager. Mr. Lau can be reached at 403-297-8633 or jerry.lau@gov.ab.ca.

You also noted the importance of sustainable growth at local airports. Alberta Transportation has been working with the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce and the Lethbridge Airport on possible improvements to the airport's services, as well as to discuss opportunities for co-operation and partnership.

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Under the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program, the Local Municipal Initiative (LMI) provides financial support to municipal authorities for special projects. Five million in LMI funding has been allocated for 2017-18. These funds can be used toward sustainable growth and to develop local and inter-regional trade opportunities. Additionally, the Lethbridge Airport has access to annual federal funding from the Airports Capital Assistance Program, which finances the replacement of existing infrastructure, including runways, taxiways, aprons, and new navigation approach system installations.

Alberta Transportation is advocating for Transport Canada to enhance its Airports Capital Assistance Program in order to provide greater assistance to local airports. I also encourage small airports to work with their municipalities to secure infrastructure funding under the Municipal Sustainability Initiative, administered by Alberta Municipal Affairs. Municipalities can use this funding to support local airports.

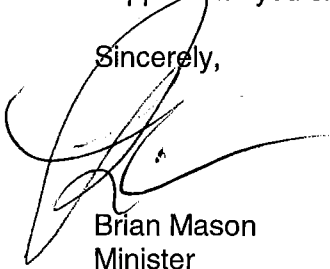
Finally, you indicated your support for the federal government to increase the capacity of rail networks. Getting Alberta products to national and international markets is a priority for this provincial government.

Alberta continues to be involved in the *Canada Transportation Act* review, ensuring Transport Canada understands Alberta's long-term agenda for transportation in Canada. An effective, reliable transportation network is crucial to the Government of Alberta's goal of diversifying our agriculture industry and the provincial economy as a whole.

The Government of Alberta made a number of written and oral submissions to the *Canada Transportation Act* Review Panel and Transport Canada, including a written submission, which included 51 recommendations encompassing all transportation modes; and a supplementary submission, which highlighted the 10 priority issues the province would like addressed through the review. In addition, I wrote the federal Minister of Transport to reiterate Alberta's position, and Alberta participated in the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Discussion Group on the *Canada Transportation Act* Review and long-term agenda for transportation (Transportation 2030).

I appreciate you sharing your concerns and hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brian Mason', written over a white background.

Brian Mason
Minister

cc: Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister of Alberta Economic Development and Trade
Honourable Joe Ceci, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Alberta Finance
Honourable Shannon Phillips, Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks
Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA for Lethbridge-East
Jerry Lau, Infrastructure Manager, Alberta Transportation