
Deputy Minister Update

2024 Consulting Engineers of
Alberta Transportation Connects
Conference

Bryce Stewart

Deputy Minister

Transportation and Economic Corridors

March 11, 2024



Agenda

- Budget 2024
- Passenger Rail
- Economic Corridors
- Procurement
- Looking Forward

Budget 2024

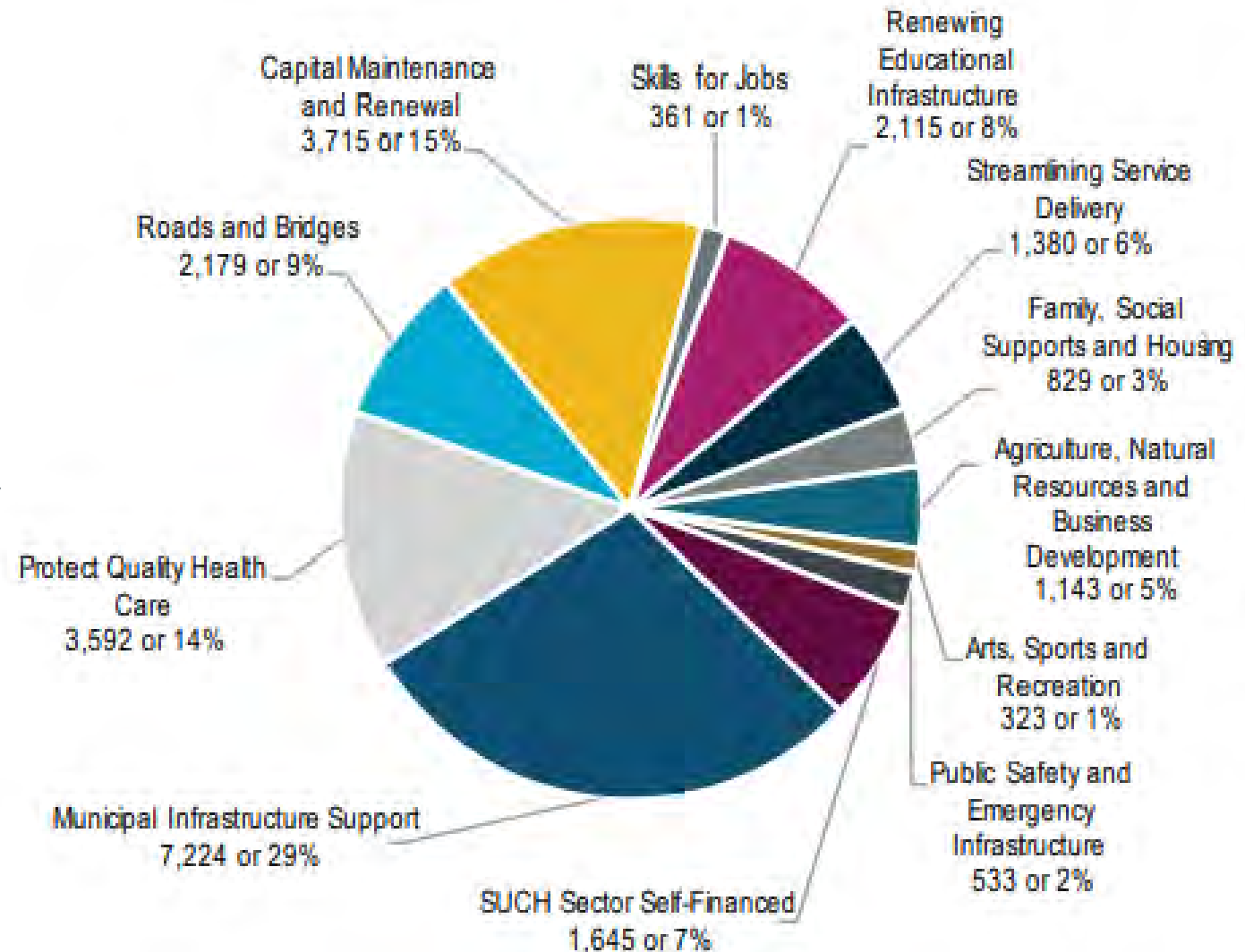
Economic Context

- Strong economic and population growth
- Moderating inflation
- Demand for infrastructure of all types

Budget 2024 – Capital Plan

Three Capital Plan of \$25 billion,
\$2 billion more than Budget 2023,
with top five envelopes:

1. \$7.2B for municipal infrastructure
2. \$3.7B for capital maintenance and renewal, includes \$1.7B for roads and bridges
3. \$3.6B for health facilities
4. \$2.2B for roads and bridges
5. \$2.1B for schools



TEC Capital Plan Highlights

- **Scale** - increase from \$8.0 billion to \$8.14 billion.
- **Stability** - stable overall funding from year-to-year.
- **Planning** - continued focus on funding upfront engineering to provide better planning and cost certainty.
- **Prioritization** - high need areas, such as bridges, and strategic enablers like economic corridors and innovative investments.

Capital Grants

- Increased investment in Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) for smaller municipalities
 - \$10 million increase per year for a total of \$111 million over three years
- Increased investment in water/wastewater programs
 - \$10 million per year in new funding for a total of \$206.5 million over three years in Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Program
 - \$45 million over three years in new funding for a total of \$237.7 million over three years in Water for Life for regional water/wastewater
- Continued commitment to LRT
 - New funding for Calgary Blue Line (\$43.3 million over three years)

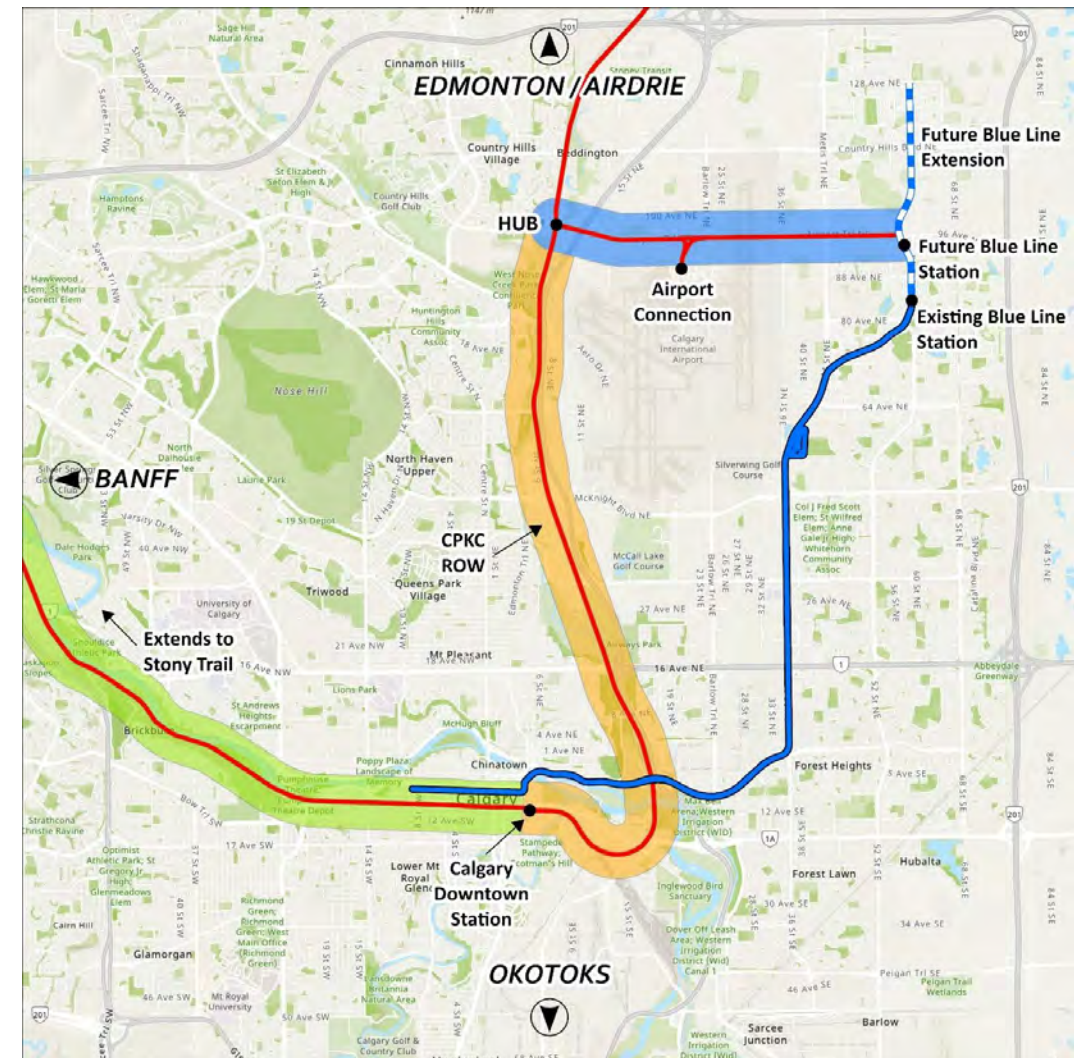
Passenger Rail

Background

- What do we mean by passenger rail?
 - Commuter + Regional (intercity) + Light-Rail Transit (LRT)
- What is the current state?
 - Passenger rail in Alberta is currently limited to two tourism services and LRT.
 - There are no provincial assessments or studies of commuter rail, or a passenger rail system, only high-level studies on highspeed rail.
- What does the future look like?
 - Minister Dreeshen's July 2023 mandate letter from the Premier identifies ambitious priorities for passenger rail and the 2023 Throne Speech confirmed this direction.
 - There is private sector interest with four unsolicited passenger rail proposals received to date.

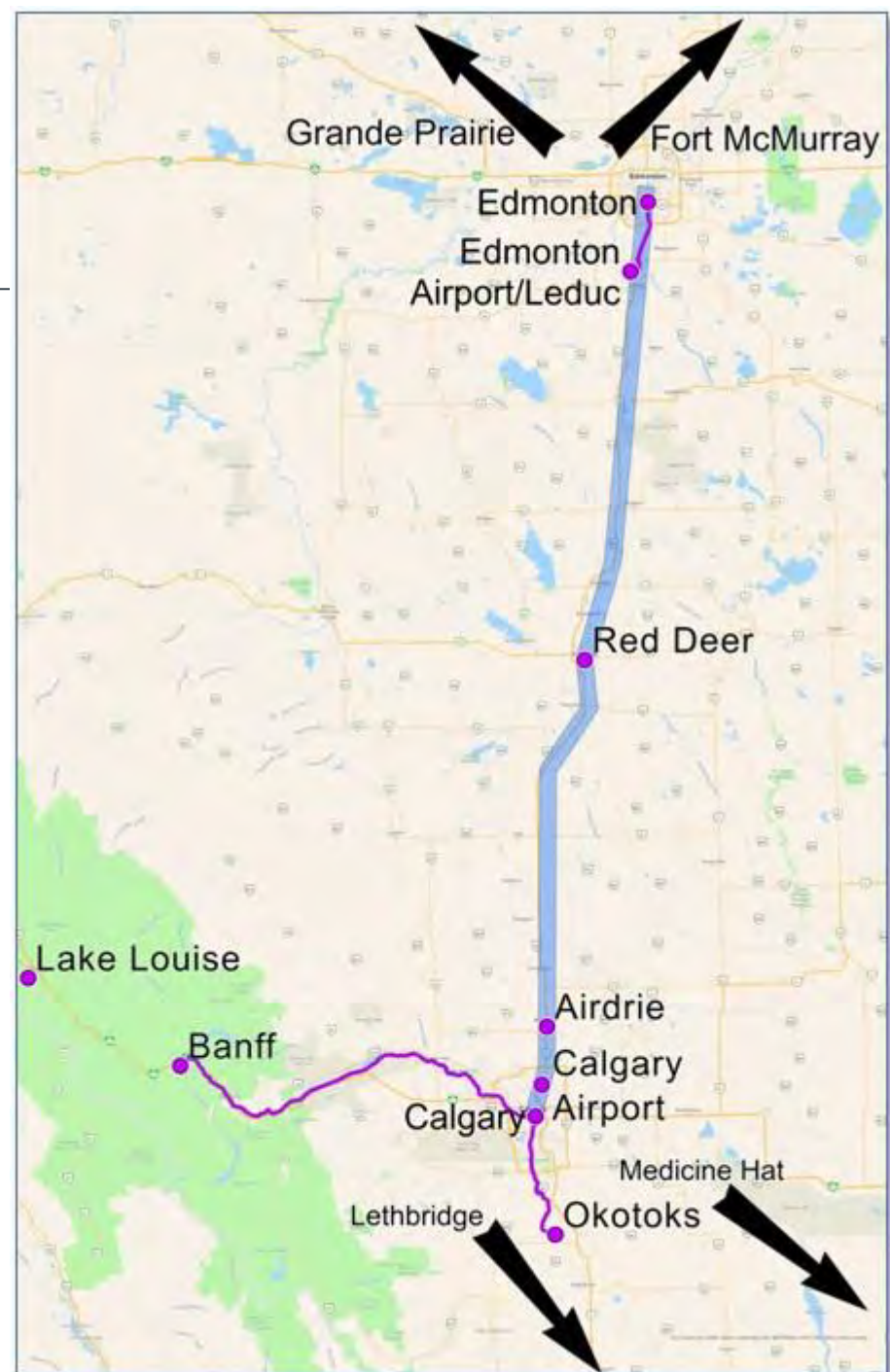
Approach

- A Passenger Rail Master Plan will be developed over two years - \$15M was included in Budget 2024.
- Continuing with the Calgary Airport Rail Connection Study with the City of Calgary that will determine the optimal connection from the airport to downtown.
- Provincial support for the Calgary Blue Line LRT extension through a multi-year contribution grant agreement, starting in 2024-25.



Passenger Rail Master Plan

- **Feasibility:** a feasibility assessment of passenger rail services in the province.
- **Delivery:** 15-Year Delivery Plan – including system staging, regional bus opportunities, financial/ delivery models, and a system that can evolve as Alberta grows.
- **Governance:** governance options for a provincially run passenger rail system - that includes public and private sector projects.
- **Engagement:** with Albertans and a range of stakeholders including municipalities, Indigenous communities, Class 1 rail, airports and proponents.



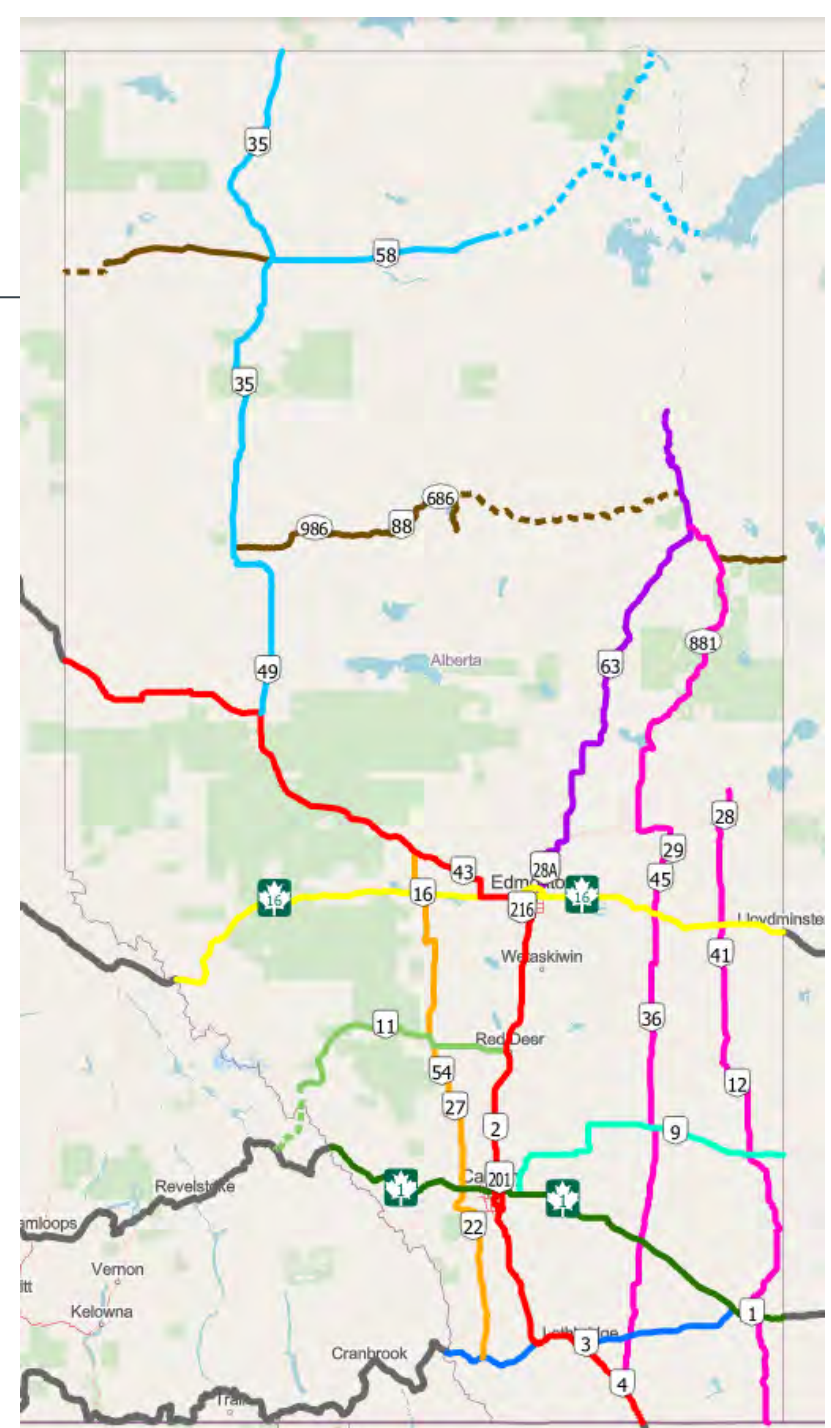
Economic Corridors

Economic Corridors

- TEC's economic corridors mandate is to build an economic corridor network that will support the next generation of Albertans and businesses.
- A nation-building approach, looking beyond Alberta's borders to opportunities across the West, the country and the world
 - Expanding economic corridors across Alberta and Canada;
 - Enhancing regional collaboration to advance economic corridors; and
 - Exploring transportation related prosperity sharing with Indigenous people
- The **Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors** is the overall coordinator for government

Advancing Economic Corridors

- Economic Corridors Intelligence Model
- Regional collaboration
- Cross government coordination and governance
- Engagement with Indigenous communities
 - Dialogue tables
 - Highway 686



Looking Forward

Commercial Carriers

- The safe and efficient movement of goods by road is critical everywhere, but more so in Alberta and the Prairies
- Alberta's government is working with industry and addressing the driver shortage by:
 - Implementing a new learning pathway for commercial drivers that builds competency and provides a career path.
 - Partnering with industry to address barriers for attracting and retaining commercial drivers.
 - Investing in safety rest areas.
 - Hiring additional commercial driver examiners.



2024 Hazard Season

- The 2023 hazard season was one of the worst on record for Alberta.
 - Record-setting wildfires
 - Rainfall induced flooding
 - An EF4 level tornado
 - Cross-border evacuations
- Based on current projections, the 2024 hazard season is anticipated to be dynamic, with drought and wildfire causing primary concern.
 - Alberta is experienced an unseasonably warm winter and low precipitation.
 - During late fall 2023, Alberta continued to experience very high to extreme fire danger, and this is carrying over to spring 2024.

Thank you!
