

---

# Transportation and Infrastructure

---

Meeting with Minister Lisa Naylor

February 10, 2025



Association of  
Manitoba Municipalities

## Summary of Municipal Priorities

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Lisa Naylor and representatives of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure (MTI). The AMM encourages the provincial government to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process. This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to Minister Naylor's portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province of Manitoba to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

### 1. Infrastructure Priorities and Partnerships

#### Recommendations:

- ✓ *Support municipalities by advocating for a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure funding program at both the federal and provincial levels.*
- ✓ *Ensure provincial-municipal partnership opportunities are discussed through the AMM-MTI Service Delivery Working Group.*

### 2. Provincial Infrastructure Maintenance

#### Recommendation:

- ✓ *Significantly increase maintenance and timely upgrades to provincial drainage and road infrastructure to mitigate flood risks and prevent damage to municipal assets.*

## Infrastructure Priorities and Partnerships

### Recommendations:

- ✓ *Support municipalities by advocating for a dedicated water and wastewater infrastructure funding program at both the federal and provincial levels.*
- ✓ *Ensure provincial-municipal partnership opportunities are discussed through the AMM-MTI Service Delivery Working Group.*

Manitoba municipalities have identified 300+ shovel-ready projects totaling more than **\$1.6 billion** to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities and sewer infrastructure across the province. The total costs have escalated by **\$624 million**—a **65% increase** compared to 2023/24 projections. This is very concerning given that municipalities manage **60%** of Manitoba's public infrastructure despite receiving less than **10 cents** of every tax dollar.

The AMM continues to call on the Province to invest no less than **\$1 billion** annually in strategic infrastructure as it is imperative that infrastructure investments enable local growth while budgeted infrastructure dollars are fully maximized to benefit all municipalities.

We value our ongoing collaboration through the AMM-MTI Service Delivery Working Group as well as appreciate the department's responsiveness to municipal concerns. For example, we welcome MTI's decision to adjusting snow clearing agreements to provide 50% of funding support upfront rather than requiring municipalities to wait for full reimbursement in March or April. However, municipalities still face funding shortfalls that fail to meet essential maintenance needs, along with ongoing delays in snow clearing on roads within municipal boundaries. These delays place significant strain on municipalities, increase financial pressures, compromise public safety, and disrupt essential services. To address these challenges, we urge the provincial government to modernize existing service agreements with adequate compensatory funding as well as leverage the AMM-MTI Service Delivery Working Group to resolve service delivery issues and explore additional provincial-municipal partnership opportunities with proper funding support.

Additionally, as a direct result of the concerns raised by our organization and municipalities, we commend the Province for doubling the funding for the Manitoba Airport Assistance Program (MAAP), which has remained stagnant for more than two decades. While this increase is a positive step, municipalities continue to face rising airport maintenance costs, which significantly impact local operations.

For instance, escalating maintenance costs contributed to the closure of the airport near the RM of Piney, located near the Minnesota-Manitoba border, after 70 years of operation. Conversely, airports like the one in the RM of St. Andrews—now the 10<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in Canada—continue to demonstrate the critical need for ongoing investment. To address these challenges, we urge the Province to collaborate closely with our organization and municipalities to strengthen the MAAP. Ensuring grant funding keeps pace with municipal interests is vital to maintaining and enhancing these essential pieces of infrastructure for growing Manitoba.

## Provincial Infrastructure Maintenance

### Recommendation:

- ✓ ***Significantly increase maintenance and timely upgrades to provincial drainage and road infrastructure to mitigate flood risks and prevent damage to municipal assets.***

The AMM recognizes that the Ministerial mandate letter tasks the department with ensuring Manitoba's road network, including bridges and culverts, remains in good repair. The 2024/2025 *Multi-year Infrastructure Strategy* emphasizes infrastructure renewal, climate resiliency, and connectivity. However, as we continue our tours across Manitoba to meet one-on-one with local councils, we continue to hear widespread concerns about the lack of maintenance on provincial drains and roads, particularly those running through municipal boundaries.

The lack of routine maintenance is causing significant harm to local communities, as evidenced by flooding that was primarily caused by clogged provincial drains in several municipalities. This damage has directly led to multi-million dollar disaster financial assistance claims. Since municipal drainage systems depend on properly functioning provincial infrastructure, timely maintenance is critical to mitigating water damage and ensuring public safety. Moreover, irregular grass mowing, brush cutting, sediment removal, and culvert replacements are creating additional financial pressures on the vast majority of municipalities.

Additionally, the *Multi-year Infrastructure Strategy* prioritizes renewal yet municipalities report that aging provincial roads, ditches, culverts, and bridges remain a major concern, particularly as severe weather events become more frequent. In 2023-2024, severe weather events, including heavy rain, snow, and resulting road slides, caused over \$5 million in damages to municipal roads. Much of this financial burden fell on municipalities, as they did not qualify for disaster financial assistance. Due to strict budget constraints and the legal requirement to balance budgets, municipalities lack the financial capacity to address these issues independently. Without sustained and proactive provincial investment in road and drainage infrastructure, municipalities will continue to face escalating repair costs and deteriorating transportation networks.

Some municipalities have even proposed maintaining provincial drains, ditches and culverts under a service agreement with adequate compensatory funding, similar to those for snow and gravel road maintenance. In contrast, others have independently taken on the responsibility of mowing and maintaining provincial ditches to prevent water from backing up and flooding communities. Additionally, while some municipalities have received funding for this work, others have not. This inconsistent approach creates confusion and financial hardship for many communities, and it is critical that municipalities are compensated if ditches and road networks are not adequately maintained by the Province.

Additionally, navigating government processes and identifying the right provincial contacts often cause delays, worsening road conditions and escalating repair costs. Streamlining these processes and improving communication channels would help mitigate these issues and ensure critical infrastructure receives the attention it requires. By incorporating municipal feedback into future plans, the Province can strengthen its infrastructure strategy and promote long-term sustainability.

## Active 2024 AMM Resolutions

### **AMM Resolution #18-2024: MTI Snow Removal Agreement**

#### **Sponsor(s)**

West Interlake, RM (Interlake)  
Whitemouth, RM (Eastern)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to prioritize the snow removal operations on all main streets within municipalities, regardless of their designation as part of the PTH; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Province be mandated to formulate a mutually agreeable protocol with all local governments to address this issue effectively.

---

### **AMM Resolution #19-2024: Maintenance of Provincial Drainage Infrastructure**

#### **Sponsor(s)**

Portage la Prairie, RM (Central)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to improve maintenance of provincial drainage infrastructure by doing the following:

- Increase funding for the maintenance of provincial drainage infrastructure and including PR and PTH right-of-ways;
  - Provide an option of funding to municipalities for the repair of problematic areas within provincial drainage infrastructure that negatively impacts private property; and
  - Work collaboratively with municipalities and other stakeholders to identify and address issues related to provincial drainage infrastructure.
- 

### **AMM Resolution #25-2024: Spring Weight Restrictions Enforcement**

#### **Sponsor(s)**

Alexander, RM (Eastern)  
Whitemouth, RM (Eastern)  
Brokenhead, RM (Eastern)  
Lac du Bonnet, RM (Eastern)  
Beausejour, Town (Eastern)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to assist municipalities by enabling Manitoba Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers (MCEO's) to aid in enforcing Spring Weight Restrictions on designated municipal roads; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** a review of the provincial regulation be performed to provide a standardized set of rules and regulations for restricted roads for all municipalities to follow.

---

## **AMM Resolution #26-2024: PR Speed Limits**

### **Sponsor(s)**

Souris-Glenwood, Municipality (Western)  
Carberry, Town (Western)  
Elton, RM (Western)  
Oakland-Wawanesa, Municipality (Western)  
Whitehead, RM (Western)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to grant municipalities the authority, by by-law, to set speed limits on designated portions of Provincial Trunk Highways (PTH) and Provincial Roads (PR) that pass through urban areas.

---

## **AMM Resolution #27-2024: Public Road Maintenance in Mineral Extraction Areas**

### **Sponsor(s)**

Riding-Mountain West, RM (Midwestern)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to:

1. Recognize the significant costs of dust control and potential safety hazards for residents and motorists if not applied;
  2. Urge the provincial government to utilize a portion of the royalties and taxes collected from mineral extraction activities to establish a dedicated fund or grant program specifically aimed at assisting municipalities in covering the costs of dust control on PR roads impacted by mining-related transportation activities; and
  3. Encourage the provincial government to engage in meaningful dialogue and consultation with municipalities, industry stakeholders, and affected communities to develop fair and transparent mechanisms for allocating funds and resources.
- 

## **AMM Resolution #28-2024: Financial Assistance for Upgrades to Heavy Haul Roads**

### **Sponsor(s)**

Grandview, Municipality (Parkland)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for financial assistance for upgrades to heavy haul roads within all municipalities.

---

## **AMM Resolution #29-2024: Designated Roadways**

### **Sponsor(s)**

Souris-Glenwood, Municipality (Western)  
Carberry, Town (Western)  
Elton, RM (Western)  
Oakland-Wawanesa, Municipality (Western)  
Whitehead, RM (Western)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to assist municipalities with the infrastructure costs and construction with maintaining parking and surface drainage along provincial roads.

---

**AMM Resolution #30-2024: Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred During Highway Closures**

**Sponsor(s)**

Viriden, Town (Western)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to obtain funding to reimburse municipalities for costs incurred during the hosting of stranded travelers for all communities affected by highway closures.

---

**AMM Resolution #31-2024: Image Capturing Enforcement**

**Sponsor(s)**

Brandon, City (Western)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend *The Highway Traffic Act Image Capturing Enforcement Regulation 220/2002* Section 5, to authorize municipalities and police services to allow image enforcement on public streets and highways in all municipalities in the Province of Manitoba.

---

**AMM Resolution #41-2024: Pedestrian Routes along Highways – Standing Policy**

**Sponsor(s)**

Taché, RM (Eastern)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to consider establishing pedestrian routes along highways within urbanized areas.

---