



ASSOCIATION OF
MANITOBA
MUNICIPALITIES

**Meeting with the Honourable Ron Schuler
Minister of Infrastructure**

2019

Introduction 1

Priority Issues 2

 1) Infrastructure Priorities & Partnerships 2

 2) Implementation of The Traffic and Transport Modernization Act..... 4

 3) Disaster Financial Assistance and Flood Mitigation..... 5

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions..... 6

Introduction

- The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Ron Schuler and representatives of Manitoba Infrastructure.
- The AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba 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 the Infrastructure portfolio.

Priority Issues

1) Infrastructure Priorities & Partnerships

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ *Continue to consult with the AMM on the review of Manitoba Infrastructure's service delivery model and policies;*
 - ❖ *Assist municipalities to offset compliance costs resulting from the new federal Grade Crossing Regulations; and*
 - ❖ *Increase funding to support rural, remote and northern airports.*
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- According to the latest Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, one-third of core municipal infrastructure is in fair, poor, or very poor condition.
 - Local Councils are responsible for building, repairing, and maintaining 60 per cent of infrastructure despite receiving less than 10 cents of every tax dollar to get the job done.
 - The AMM encourages the provincial government to continue to invest no less than \$1 billion annually in strategic infrastructure and ensure all infrastructure dollars budgeted are fully allocated and spent to benefit all municipalities.
 - The AMM also appreciates the invitation to participate in the review of Manitoba Infrastructure's service delivery model and policies.
 - It is essential that strategic provincial investments in Manitoba's road infrastructure help facilitate growth in local communities.
 - In September 2017, the AMM made a formal submission to the federal government's review of the *Railway Safety Act* since more than 60 per cent of Manitoba's 2,100 rail crossings are located within municipal boundaries.
 - Due to the financial implications of federal Grade Crossing Regulations, the AMM continues to urge both the provincial and federal governments to provide financial assistance to support crossing safety improvements in municipalities.

- Lastly, as Manitoba's diversified economy relies on trade, it is vital that modern infrastructure links all Manitobans to inter-provincial and international markets.
- Rural, remote and northern airports are vital to many communities given their link to fostering economic development and growing local network capacity.
- Since these airports provide important services to surrounding communities, the AMM encourages the Province of Manitoba to provide additional resources to support capital and operating costs for these facilities.
- Operating grants have remained stagnant at \$2,400 and \$1,200, respectively, for more than a decade.
- Without increased provincial assistance to repair and rebuild runways, many of these airports will be forced to reduce their services or close.
- Community airports not only support enterprise and trade, they also help stimulate job creation and economic growth in local communities.
- In comparison, the Province of Saskatchewan's Community Airport Partnership (CAP) Program provides capital contributions to rehabilitate and upgrade the network of strategic regional community airports.

2) Implementation of The Traffic and Transport Modernization Act

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Continue to consult with municipalities regarding the parameters for municipal authority to set speed limits; and***
 - ❖ ***Develop necessary by-law templates and other resource materials in consultation with the AMM and Manitoba Municipal Relations.***
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- The AMM welcomes the dissolution of the Highway Traffic board under the auspices of *The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act (TTMA)*.
 - We encourage the department to continue to consult with our organization to ensure a smooth transition process for municipalities who know their roads best.
 - The AMM also appreciates the granting of authority to municipalities to establish speed limits within their respective boundaries under the TTMA.
 - We look forward to working closely with Manitoba Infrastructure on TTMA-related regulations.

3) Disaster Financial Assistance and Flood Mitigation

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Continue to consult the AMM when reviewing the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program; and***
 - ❖ ***Support municipalities by urging the federal government to reverse changes to the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula.***
- The AMM appreciates Manitoba Infrastructure’s willingness to comprehensively review the DFA program with the goal to streamline existing processes while maximizing cost-sharing mechanisms.
 - Meanwhile, increased investment in flood protection and mitigation infrastructure could prevent millions, if not billions, of dollars in damages since every dollar invested in adaptation and climate-resilient infrastructure will yield anywhere from \$9 to \$38 in avoided damages in the future.
 - In addition, the previous federal government enacted changes to the DFAA program’s cost-sharing formula, which significantly increased the federal funding thresholds for small and medium disasters or extreme weather events.
 - Prairie Provinces account for more than 80 per cent of all DFAA weather event costs, almost all of which are a result of flooding.
 - As many Manitoba communities are situated in flood prone areas, the change to cost-sharing formula could significantly and negatively affect municipalities.
 - The AMM believes these changes must be reversed immediately, and we call upon the Province of Manitoba and all provincial parties to urge their federal counterparts to restore the previous disaster assistance cost-sharing formula.

Appendix – AMM Active Resolutions

AMM Resolution #24-2018

Topic: Downloading of Provincial Roads and PTHs

Sponsor(s): RM of Springfield (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to remove the unilateral ability of Manitoba to download responsibility for Provincial Roads and Provincial Trunk Highways from The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act.

AMM Resolution #25-2018

Topic: Amend The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act

Sponsor(s): City of Selkirk (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the provincial government seeks to enact Bill 14: The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act; and

WHEREAS this Bill maintains the power of the Province of Manitoba to download ownership and ongoing maintenance and renewal responsibilities of previously designated provincial highways on to municipalities; and

WHEREAS Manitoba's municipal infrastructure deficit currently exceeds \$11 billion or \$10,000 per Manitoban; and

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities are already responsible for 60% of all public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS such downloading does not reflect giving municipalities a fair share or a fair say;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend Bill 14: The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act to include provisions that require such transfer of ownership and ongoing responsibility of provincial highways through negotiations and actual agreement from the municipality.

AMM Resolution #26-2018

Topic: Driver Feedback Signs

Sponsor(s): RM of Yellowhead (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure does not allow the placement of driver feedback signs on their highways; and

WHEREAS Council believes the signs are effective in controlling driver speed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to allow the placement of driver feedback signs along provincial highways within municipal boundaries.

AMM Resolution #27-2018

Topic: Disaster Financial Assistance

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Grassland (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the DFA Administration requires an engineer's report for the repair recommendations for certain damaged sites covered in a DFA program; and

WHEREAS the findings often mandate actions based on the engineering profession's opinion of best solutions and not on rules required by law or regulation or common sense; and

WHEREAS the aforesaid actions may far exceed the requirements to return some sites to pre-disaster condition and therefore obligate the program to expenses that are by many orders of magnitude excessive; and

WHEREAS the engineer, at his discretion, may also demand that a thorough (and very expensive) engineering study, hydrological or otherwise, must be performed before providing the desired sign-off; and

WHEREAS such a study may be totally unnecessary as the proper solution may be very obvious; and

WHEREAS this type of wasteful spending or diversion of funds, over the whole program can significantly negatively impact the program's fiscal integrity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to instruct DFA Administration to allow municipalities to use repair procedures that best serve the municipalities' needs as long as these procedures meet the requirements of the relevant regulatory bodies.

AMM Resolution #28-2018

Topic: Noxious Weeds

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Clements (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the spread of noxious weeds is an area of shared concern between municipalities and the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS current AMM policy includes working with the Province of Manitoba to ensure noxious weeds are controlled in provincial drains and highway ditches as well as around waterways; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is responsible for the revegetation of crown land that is disturbed as a result of infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS current Province of Manitoba revegetation practices and compliance criteria are inconsistent with those known to produce desirable, enduring and competitive cover, often resulting in the establishment and spread of noxious weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to revise its standard practices for revegetation on any infrastructure project to adopt site appropriate practices of native plant revegetation which are known to provide improved performance standards and better protection for adjacent lands from weed encroachment.

AMM Resolution #31-2017

Topic: Highway Traffic Board

Sponsor(s): City of Winkler (Central District), RM of Macdonald (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Manitoba Highway Traffic Board was established to ensure the safety of the travelling public and protection of highway infrastructure through the administration of the *Highways Protection Act* and portions of the *Highway Traffic Act*; and

WHEREAS the Highway Traffic Board is responsible to establish speed limits throughout the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS municipalities are cognizant of special circumstances, settlement patterns, population trends and other relevant information to make a determination of safe speed limits for the protection of the travelling and pedestrian public within their local jurisdictions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to amend the responsibility of the Highway Traffic Board to act as a review board for comment and recommendations on resolutions passed by municipal Councils amending speed limits within their local jurisdictions.

AMM Resolution #35-2017

Topic: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity

Sponsor(s): City of Thompson (Northern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba is currently reviewing and establishing strategies to increase economic opportunities throughout the province; and

WHEREAS the AMM has passed resolutions in recent years regarding the need to increase electronic connectivity in all areas of the province; and

WHEREAS the provision of all-weather road access in all areas of the province is a basic need and the Province of Manitoba needs to live up to its socio-economic responsibility for all Manitobans; and

WHEREAS the provision of physical and electronic access are paramount to creating and enhancing economic development opportunities in the province; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba needs to develop a long-term strategy that will address these issues so that all Manitobans have the opportunity to grow the economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a long-term strategy that increases physical and electronic connectivity to enable economic development opportunities in all areas of the province.

AMM Resolution #46-2017 *Standing Policy

Topic: Water Rights Act Compliance

Sponsor(s): RM of Alexander (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure has constructed part of a drain upstream of the outlet and had no plans to upgrade the downstream end; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure did not consult or gain approval from Manitoba Sustainable Development, the affected municipality, or affected land owners before commencing; and

WHEREAS this is contrary to the *Water Rights Act* in our opinion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to set policy that when any provincial government department performs drainage works they must consult and gain approval from Manitoba Sustainable Development, affected municipalities, and property owners prior to commencement of the works to ensure compliance with the *Water Rights Act*.

AMM Resolution #48-2017 *Standing Policy

Topic: Municipal Drainage

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS there exists many provincial drains that were designed and constructed to convey agricultural and residential drainage to receiving waterways in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the funding for operation and maintenance of these drains has been declining for an extended length of time; and

WHEREAS this has resulted in significant local and regional drainage problems affecting residents, municipalities, and financial systems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby to the Province of Manitoba to adequately resource the operation and maintenance of these drains and those programs that effectively integrate with all municipalities.

AMM Resolution #49-2017 *Standing Policy

Topic: Support for Increased Water Flows

Sponsor(s): RM of Reynolds (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure has been replacing culverts in provincial roads with larger culverts to withstand a 1 in 100-year flood; and

WHEREAS municipal infrastructure is not designed to withstand increased water volumes; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure is not required to obtain a drainage license or to consult with the local drainage authority when increasing water flow through their roads;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to require Manitoba Infrastructure to prepare drainage plans and to consult with municipalities prior to increasing water flows; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Manitoba Infrastructure be required to contribute financially and with in-house expertise toward upgrades required in municipal drains and roads due to increased water flows.

AMM Resolution #32-2016

Topic: Consultation on Waterway Projects

Sponsor(s): RM of Yellowhead (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Sustainable Development

WHEREAS municipalities must obtain a license from Manitoba Sustainable Development for culvert replacement, runway cleaning or drainage projects; and

WHEREAS Manitoba Infrastructure is not required to go through this process for waterway projects on provincial highways and provincial trunk roads; and

WHEREAS on occasion Manitoba Infrastructure projects have resulted in damage to downstream municipal infrastructure as a result of increased water flows;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to make it mandatory for Manitoba Infrastructure to consult with Manitoba Sustainable Development when working on waterway projects.

AMM Resolution #35-2016

Topic: Federal DFAA Program Changes

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Laurent (Interlake District), RM of Woodlands (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS in January 2015 the federal government changed the funding structure of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), which will result in a reduction of the amount of federal money available to those affected by disasters; and

WHEREAS these changes came into effect on February 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has consistently been the second largest user of the DFAA program due to natural disasters and flooding events in its region; and

WHEREAS the said changes to the DFAA program will cause major and significant financial implications and downloading to the Province of Manitoba and ultimately Manitoba municipalities; and

WHEREAS a new federal government was elected in October 2015 since the changes were implemented;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and the new federal government to repeal the DFAA program changes made by the previous federal government.

AMM Resolution #46-2016 *Standing Policy

Topic: Noxious Weeds

Sponsor(s): Mossey River Municipality (Parkland District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Transport Canada

WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for appointing a weed inspector for the control of noxious weeds within the municipality; and

WHEREAS provincial ditches contain noxious weeds but little is done for the control of these weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled in provincial drains and highway ditches as well as around railways.

AMM Resolution #31-2015

Topic: Emergency Response Communication Equipment

Sponsor(s): Municipality of Emerson-Franklin (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Infrastructure Canada

WHEREAS provincial, federal and municipal governments play a prominent role in emergencies;

AND WHEREAS the primary responsibility to deal with emergencies lies with local authorities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities utilize the MTS FleetNet network as the emergency communication system;

AND WHEREAS MTS is planning to upgrade its FleetNet system to digital in the near future;

AND WHEREAS there will be a significant cost to municipalities for the upgrade of digital FleetNet equipment (\$3,000 per radio);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the federal government and Province of Manitoba to provide funding opportunities similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program to assist with the purchase of emergency response communication equipment to reduce the cost and to increase the ability of municipalities to respond effectively.

AMM Resolution #19-2014

Topic: Provincial Waterway Bridge Maintenance

Sponsor(s): RM of Morris (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS there are numerous waterways within the Province of Manitoba that are under the jurisdiction of the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS these waterways have various bridges in order to provide crossings at appropriate places;

AND WHEREAS some of these bridges have been 'given' over to municipalities for them to maintain, upgrade and replace from time to time;

AND WHEREAS these bridges should be a provincial responsibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to take responsibility for all bridges that provide crossings over provincial waterways.

AMM Resolution #18-2013

Topic: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance

Sponsor(s): City of Brandon (Western District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS municipalities continue to face a significant threat from massive storm damage to municipal infrastructure, and commercial and residential properties within municipal jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS already financially burdened municipalities and their citizens do not have the resources to respond quickly to the damage caused by these storms, or the funds to undertake preventative actions;

AND WHEREAS governments are unable to respond quickly enough or allow a consistent level of access to disaster financial assistance for municipalities and their citizens;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for a review of the current policies for disaster financial assistance programs and to increase funding to and the eligibility criteria for these programs, in order to allow municipalities more rapid and consistent access to funding.

AMM Resolution #22-2013

Topic: Maintenance of Railway Crossings

Sponsor(s): RM of Morris (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities in Manitoba have, or have had in the past, railway companies that have established rail lines within those municipalities;

AND WHEREAS rail lines have numerous road crossings;

AND WHEREAS these road crossings need to be maintained so that they do not fall into a state of disrepair;

AND WHEREAS railway companies have neglected to maintain railway road crossings, thereby resulting in dangerous driving conditions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to pass appropriate legislation to ensure railway companies maintain road crossings for safe travel.

AMM Resolution #51-2012 *Standing Policy

Topic: Maintenance of Right-of-Way on Provincial Drains

Sponsor(s): RM of Rosser (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS provincial drains are composed of a right-of-way, which includes a constructed drain with riparian area;

AND WHEREAS activities destructive to the right-of-way of the constructed drain, create impediments to proper drainage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to enforce the maintenance of the undeveloped right-of-way as a riparian area in conjunction with ongoing maintenance of provincial drains.

AMM Resolution #19-2011

Topic: Permanent Flood Solutions

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District), RM of Westbourne (Midwestern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Public Safety Canada

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has suffered considerable flood damage;

AND WHEREAS several communities throughout the Province have experienced frequent high water events;

AND WHEREAS the intervals of the flooding events are accelerated and becoming the new norm;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and residents of Manitoba are experiencing large financial burdens, using large amounts of resources and putting lives at risk;

AND WHEREAS there is precedent for such a program including the Canada-Manitoba Flood Protection Agreement of 1997 which upgraded flood protection infrastructure in the Red River Valley;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada to implement a flood protection program across Manitoba to minimize potential damages from future flood events and to implement permanent flood solutions which would include such measures as dyking, removal of affected homes, raising of property levels and shoreline protection.

AMM Resolution #26-2010

Topic: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit

Sponsor(s): RM of Rhineland (Central District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Manitoba Finance; Manitoba Municipal Relations

WHEREAS the national municipal infrastructure deficit totals more than \$123 billion;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba municipal infrastructure deficit totals more than \$11 billion;

AND WHEREAS this deficit only includes the upgrades and retrofitting of existing municipal infrastructure with no new construction;

AND WHEREAS the Province has been increasing the regulatory requirements on municipal infrastructure such as water, wastewater and solid waste disposal to a point where many projects are unaffordable without provincial funding;

AND WHEREAS the Province does not have a strategy to address this growing infrastructure deficit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Manitoba Municipalities lobby the Province of Manitoba to work with municipalities to start developing a strategy which will address the current municipal infrastructure deficit;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to provide stable long-term funding commitments which will allow municipalities to better plan for future infrastructure projects.

AMM Resolution #37-2008

Topic: Increase Operating Grants for Small Rural Airports

Sponsor(s): RM of Bifrost (Interlake District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba provides annual operating grants to small rural airports in the amount of \$1,200 for airports with unpaved runways and \$2,400 for airports with paved runways;

AND WHEREAS costs to operate these airports continue to rise;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial grants have not increased in many years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to increase operating grants for small rural airports.

AMM Resolution #23-2007

Topic: Assistance for Damages Caused by Provincial Weight Restrictions

Sponsor(s): RM of Taché (Eastern District)

Department(s): Manitoba Infrastructure; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

WHEREAS weight restrictions placed on Provincial roads redirect traffic onto municipal roads causing substantial damages;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba for assistance with rebuilding municipal roads damaged as a result of traffic diverted from provincial roads because of Provincial weight restrictions.

AMM Resolution #11-2002

Topic: Funding of Airports

Sponsor(s): RM of St. Andrews (Interlake District)

Department: Transport Canada; Manitoba Infrastructure

WHEREAS the federal government has transferred ownership of 11 regional airports to municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada has established new regulations to enhance the safety and integrity of regional airports;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada no longer provides either ongoing training for existing regional airport employees, or training for new employees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Government of Canada to provide funding for airport facility equipment and maintenance, which is necessary to maintain existing and implement new federal standards and regulations.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Governments of Canada and Manitoba to provide funding and training programs for airport maintenance and staff, so that airports may comply with federal standards and regulations.