



# ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – FEBRUARY 18, 2022

| Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation | Doyle Piwniuk |

*The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Doyle Piwniuk and representatives of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. The AMM encourages the Province 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 and Transportation portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.*

## TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS



- One-third of core municipal infrastructure is in fair, poor, or very poor condition, which is concerning given that municipalities manage 60% of Manitoba's public infrastructure despite collecting less than 10 cents of every tax dollar.
- Demand far outpaces provincial and federal dollars as municipalities have identified more than \$702M to upgrade or construct water and wastewater treatment facilities as well as sewer infrastructure across Manitoba.
- If there is a major flood event in Manitoba, the current Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing formula will have devastating impacts on municipalities, particularly for smaller municipalities due to increased thresholds.
- Provincial highway weight restrictions cause heavy trucks to be rerouted onto municipal roads, causing substantial damages and costly infrastructure repair costs which adds to the overall municipal infrastructure deficit.

## MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

1. **INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS**
2. **DFAA & FLOOD MITIGATION**
3. **ENFORCEMENT OF WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS**

*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.*

## **The AMM recommends the government:**

- ❖ ***Continue to consult with the AMM and municipalities through the MI-AMM Service Delivery Review Working Group;***
- ❖ ***Continue to allocate funding for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure;***
- ❖ ***Urge the federal government to restore the previous DFAA cost-sharing formula; and***
- ❖ ***Work collaboratively with municipalities to allow local Councils the option to enforce certain sections of the Highway Traffic Act to protect municipal infrastructure.***

## **ACTIVE AMM INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTIONS**

### **AMM Resolution #11-2021: Transportation of Aggregate**

WHEREAS certain municipalities have contracts with Manitoba Infrastructure to maintain the gravel PR roads; and

WHEREAS the Transportation of Aggregate Levy can be charged by municipalities on their municipal roads but not on the PR roads; and

WHEREAS based on the maintenance contracts PR roads are only assessed based on annual traffic count and do not factor in weight or type of vehicle causing maintenance concerns to the roads;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to allow municipalities to charge and collect a Transportation of Aggregate Levy on PR roads under municipal maintenance contracts; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to further breakdown the method of classifying the type of road traffic on PR roads for ranking purposes such as, Heavy Haul, Commercial / Recreational, Residential.

### **AMM Resolution #12-2021: Provincial 5-year Capital Plan**

WHEREAS Manitoba has committed to setting a budget of no less than \$500 million for Highways Capital in each of this and the next two years; and

WHEREAS a published annual and multi-year capital investment program, with projects expected in those years is recognized as best practice in capital program management, enabling the public at large, municipalities and industry the ability to prepare for an understand provincial investment priorities in its transportation system which moves people to jobs and products to market; and

WHEREAS publication of an annual and five-year program is a universally well-established practice at other levels of government and in the private sector;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement capital program best practices management, by introducing a Manitoba Infrastructure annual and five-year highways capital program to commence with budget year 2022-23.

### **AMM Resolution #13-2021: Highway Maintenance**

WHEREAS tourism supports 20,640 jobs in the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS \$339.4 million in total provincial and municipal taxes per year are attributed to tourism annually; and

WHEREAS tourism is the 4th fastest growing industry in the world; and

WHEREAS 69% of tourist visits occur outside of Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS the infrastructure leading to many provincial parks and attractions are not up to the appropriate standard to showcase the province in a positive light;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to study and examine the highway infrastructure that leads to each provincial park throughout the province with the purpose of making those routes safer, easier to navigate, and more pleasurable to travel upon.

### **AMM Resolution #14-2021: Road Weight Restrictions**

WHEREAS road restrictions on provincial highways through municipalities force heavy vehicles to detour using municipal roads during spring restrictions; and

WHEREAS in order for Manitoba Infrastructure to protect their highways it causes municipal roads undue stress and damage which is costly to repair and upgrade on municipal budgets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to develop a process and criteria for funding to qualify for municipal road upgrades on these roads that are being used as alternate routes.

### **AMM Resolution #04-2020: Maintenance of Designated Roadway (DR) Routes**

### **AMM Resolution #11-2020: 911 Navigational System**

### **AMM Resolution #17-2020: Snow Removal Agreements**

### **AMM Resolution #20-2020: Rail Crossings**

### **AMM Resolution #07-2019: No Unilateral Downloading**

### **AMM Resolution #33-2019: Priority Infrastructure Upgrades**

### **AMM Resolution #24-2018: Downloading of Provincial Roads and PTHs**

### **AMM Resolution #25-2018: Amend The Traffic and Transportation Modernization Act**

### **AMM Resolution #35-2017: Strategy to Increase Physical and Electronic Connectivity**

### **AMM Resolution #46-2017: Water Rights Act Compliance - SP**

### **AMM Resolution #48-2017: Municipal Drainage - SP**

### **AMM Resolution #49-2017: Support for Increased Water Flows - SP**

### **AMM Resolution #35-2016: Federal DFAA Program Changes**

### **AMM Resolution #46-2016: Noxious Weeds - SP**

### **AMM Resolution #18-2013: Review of Disaster Financial Assistance**

### **AMM Resolution #51-2012: Maintenance of Right-of-way of Provincial Drains - SP**

### **AMM Resolution #26-2010: Strategy to Address Municipal Infrastructure Deficit**

### **AMM Resolution #37-2008: Increase Operating Grants for Small Rural Airports**

### **AMM Resolution #11-2002: Funding of Airports**