

December 20, 2007

Red Deer residents get upgraded public transit services

Red Deer... The federal and provincial governments will jointly invest nearly \$670,000 to upgrade 90 transit stops in the City of Red Deer.

Bob Mills, Member of Parliament for Red Deer, on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, and Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA for Red Deer–North, announced the funding through the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

“This infrastructure investment will improve the safety and accessibility of public transit for the growing number of riders in the City of Red Deer,” said MP Mills. “Today’s announcement demonstrates the Government of Canada’s commitment to help communities become even more vibrant and productive places to live, work and raise families.”

The Transit Road/Sidewalk Improvement Program will provide the City of Red Deer with appropriate bus stop improvements. These improvements range from extending sidewalks to the transit stops, improving lighting and creating stable and level cement pads for the stops. These improvements will potentially result in an increase of 9,000 riders, making further advances towards a cleaner and healthier environment.

“Public transit is good for the environment. This project will improve the safety of all current and future transit passengers in the City of Red Deer,” said Jablonski. “It also reflects Premier Ed Stelmach’s plan to secure Alberta’s future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.”

Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs. This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an additional \$19 million to the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs. The total amount available from the CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 million.

A minimum of 55 per cent of funding under CAMRIF targets green infrastructure projects that contribute to community economic development and environmental quality of life. These include water, wastewater, solid waste, environmental energy improvements and public transit. The fund also invests in recreational infrastructure, tourism, cultural projects, local roads and broadband connectivity. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities.

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Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

The following project is receiving funding under the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF).

City of Red Deer

Transit Road/Sidewalk Improvement Program

Combined federal / provincial investment: \$666,666 (pending environmental assessment)

This project will upgrade more than 90 transit stops for increased accessibility and safety. The project will make transit stops accessible by sidewalks, construct cement pads for the stops, improve the slope at the stop and increase access to persons using mobility devices. Lighting will also be addressed with this project.

Fact Sheet

Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF)

Partnership Program

- The Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CAMRIF) is designed to address local infrastructure needs in rural and urban Alberta. It ensures all Albertans, whether they live in large, small or remote communities, share in the benefits of infrastructure investments.
- Through the fund, the Governments of Canada and Alberta invest in local infrastructure projects. These projects are vital to sustaining strong economic growth and quality of life in Canadian communities.
- Under the initial CAMRIF Agreement signed in June 2006, the federal and provincial governments each committed \$88 million to the fund, with participating local governments expected to make up the remaining costs.
- This year, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have each provided an additional \$19 million to the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund as part of their commitment to help smaller communities meet their pressing infrastructure needs.
- The total amount available from the CAMRIF, with federal and provincial investment and matching local government contribution in projects, is \$321 million.
- CAMRIF is implemented by Western Economic Diversification Canada and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, and is administered by a joint secretariat.

Program Priorities

- A minimum of 55 per cent of funding under CAMRIF targets green infrastructure projects that contribute to community economic development and environmental quality of life. These include water, wastewater, solid waste, environmental energy improvements and public transit. The fund also invests in recreational infrastructure, tourism and cultural projects, local roads and broadband connectivity.
- At least 80 per cent of CAMRIF funding is dedicated to rural municipalities with a population of less

than 250,000. The remaining 20 per cent is available to urban municipalities with a population greater than 250,000.

- A total of \$724,584 is also available to municipalities for Municipal Capacity Building (MCB) projects. Projects may include, but is not limited to, the acquisition of infrastructure planning software, training to use that software, planning studies to determine the inventory and condition of infrastructure assets in the municipality or the development of a demand asset management system.

Local input and collaboration

- CAMRIF is managed by a six member Management Committee consisting of two federal representatives, two provincial representatives, and two members representing Alberta's municipal associations—the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. The Management Committee develops the Management Committee guidelines and oversees the project review and selection process. Projects are selected on a competitive basis from applications received from Alberta communities. The deadline to submit applications for the second intake was May 31, 2007.

Environmental Assessment

- CAMRIF projects are required to successfully complete applicable environmental assessment processes, and funding is conditional on compliance with all applicable federal and provincial requirements.

For more information

- Contact the Canada-Alberta Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Joint Secretariat by phone (toll free) at 1-800-396-0214, by e-mail at camrif@gov.ab.ca or visit the website <http://www.camrif.ca/>.
- Information about Government of Canada and Alberta's infrastructure programs is available at <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/> and <http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/>.

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