

## OVERVIEW

Highway 64 is a major 2-lane, inter-provincial highway and Alberta's northernmost connection to the British Columbia border. A primary transportation corridor through Clear Hills County, Highway 64 links most of the county's hamlets, and provides access to the Clear River Campground/Rodeo Grounds, local agricultural uses and resource activities.

The existing section of Highway 64 through the Clear River Valley and crossing the river is increasingly at risk of major slides. Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors is undertaking a functional planning study, anticipated to be complete in early 2025, to determine the most practical and feasible alignment for crossing the Clear River Valley.

A functional planning study is the first step in understanding the needs for any future highway upgrading. The study was initially focused on identifying a new alignment for Highway 64 through the Clear River Valley. Following the initial review of new alignment alternatives and considering the stakeholder feedback received to date, the study was expanded to include the existing crossing alignment.

Construction or reconstruction of a highway alignment through the Clear River Valley is not on the provincial construction program at this time. The need for further design leading to future construction will be determined based on the outcomes of this study.

CIMA Canada Inc. (CIMA+) is conducting the functional planning study, which will:

- Assess conditions and constraints in the study area
- Identify the concerns and interests of potentially impacted property owners within the study area
- Assess the reliability, stability, safety and costs of potential alignments
- Evaluate improvements to the existing Highway 64 alignment and river crossing compared with a new alignment option across the valley
- Develop an alignment plan that:
  - provides the most appropriate design given the site constraints
  - addresses stability and safety, community interests, environmental and historical resources, drainage and other impacts
  - identifies access requirements
  - identifies land requirements

## TIMELINE

- Winter 2022 - Information Gathering (New Alignment) – Complete
  - Stakeholder engagement (April)
  - Technical investigations
- Spring/Summer 2022 - Alternative Development (New Alignment) – Complete
  - Create new alignment alternatives
  - Technical analysis
- Summer 2022/Fall 2022 - Compare Alternatives (New Alignment) – Complete
  - Preliminary evaluations and pre-screening
  - Stakeholder and public engagement (November 2022)

Highway 64 Alignment (Clear River Valley) Functional Planning Study  
Project Information Sheet – October 2024

- Spring 2023 - Information Gathering (Existing Alignment) – Complete
  - Technical investigations
- Summer 2023 to Spring 2024 - Alternative Development (Existing Alignment) – Complete
  - Create existing alignment alternatives
  - Technical analysis
- Spring/Summer 2024 - Compare Alternatives (Existing Alignment) – Complete
  - Preliminary evaluations and pre-screening
- Summer/Fall 2024 - Select preferred alignment – We Are Here
  - Stakeholder and public engagement (October 2024)
  - Final evaluations
- Winter 2024-2025
  - Finalize alignment
  - Develop functional plan
  - Confirm municipal support

## ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Key technical factors in the development of alternatives were:

- Geotechnical stability
- River stability and bridge requirements
- Roadway design standards
- Constructability and stageability
- Environmental and historical resources

The study team developed and reviewed a number of options and has identified a proposed preferred plan along the existing alignment.

## NEXT STEPS

In the coming months, the study team will review and summarize the feedback received at stakeholder meetings and the information session, confirm preferred plan, finalize the assessment of environmental, stormwater, bridge planning, and geotechnical requirements, and develop functional plans.

The outcome of the study will help the province to identify the most feasible long-term alignment for Highway 64 crossing the Clear River Valley.

**Additional Information and study updates can be found on the project website:**

<https://www.alberta.ca/highway-64-clear-river-valley>

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