OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF EDMONTON

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The Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Email: premier@gov.ab.ca

The Honourable Jason Nixon
President of Treasury Board and Minister
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Email: tbf.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Premier Smith and Minister Nixon,

On behalf of Edmonton City Council, I am pleased to present the City's recommendations for the Government of Alberta's Budget 2027. As Alberta's capital and economic engine, Edmonton shares your government's vision for a thriving province. The proposed investments align our municipal priorities with provincial economic goals by advancing critical infrastructure renewal, promoting safety and equity in our community, and ensuring our growth continues to deliver broad benefits not only to Edmontonians, but also across Alberta.

New Funding for Bridge Renewal

The Low Level and High Level Bridges are nearing the end of their useful lives and require replacement or rehabilitation. Together, these bridges carry up to 70,000 vehicles per day. Investing in this infrastructure is crucial for the safety of residents and visitors alike.

Edmonton is requesting a long-term provincial funding commitment of up to $1.3 billion over the next 10 to 15 years to support our generational bridge renewal and replacement strategy, including an initial $15 million in 2027–28 for Low Level Bridge replacement planning and design work. A sustained partnership would help protect this critical infrastructure, support regional growth, and strengthen the broader transportation network required to advance Alberta's Passenger Rail Strategy.

Enhancing Economic Corridors

To support growth toward a population of two million and ease traffic bottlenecks affecting over 90,000 daily trips, Edmonton requests $160 million in provincial funding for key arterial roadway improvements. Identified priority projects include:

- Parsons Road (from 19 Avenue to 91 Street SW) ($45 million)
- 215 Street (from Stony Plain Road to Whitemud Drive) ($40 million)

- 41 Avenue SW (from Highway 2 to James Mowatt Trail) ($50 million)
- 127 Street (from Yellowhead to 137 Avenue) ($25 million)

These investments would save commuters hundreds of hours in travel time during peak periods.

Additionally, under the federal-provincial Strong Transit Fund agreement, the City requests that the province advance the core transit infrastructure and state-of-good-repair projects that have been submitted to Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors for consideration. This funding will provide critical support for the expansion and renewal of Edmonton's transit network.

Industrial Infrastructure Readiness for Business Expansion

To accelerate business expansion and attract private capital, Edmonton seeks $223 million in multi-year provincial funding for site servicing for high-priority industrial projects across the City. Preparing these shovel-ready lands will unlock over $1.7 billion in private investment, strengthening Alberta's competitiveness as a destination for business.

Funding Parity with Calgary

Edmonton is requesting the fulfilment of the $150 million in provincial capital funding previously committed to Edmonton's downtown revitalization and economic growth initiatives. Commensurate with provincial capital investments in Calgary, this funding will catalyze major redevelopment, and boost tourism and economic momentum.

Enhancing Edmonton's Safety, Affordability, and Livability

To ensure Edmonton remains a safe, affordable and vibrant city, the City is requesting a joint planning and investment approach to address growing pre- and post-treatment housing needs.

We are requesting continued provincial partnership in the following core areas:

- Housing infrastructure: We request the Province to allocate $74.4 million for housing-enabling infrastructure to support residential redevelopment. This funding request aligns with the provincial commitment to provide up to $428 million for housing-enabling water and wastewater infrastructure projects across Alberta.

- Community Safety and Social Supports: As we work together to address public safety, the City is requesting $59.3 million to support vital affordability measures and social supports, including permanent funding for the Low Income Transit program, coordinated discharge practices, operating funds for supportive housing and Community Service Hubs, and targeted interventions to improve safety in our downtown core and Chinatown. Alongside these investments, we stress the critical importance of increasing Family and Community Support Services funding to ensure the continued delivery of preventive social programs.

- Supportive and recovery housing: While we welcome the creation of recovery communities in Edmonton and surrounding areas, a clear partnership and plan is needed for pre- and post-treatment housing. By the end of 2026, recovery communities will provide services to more than 1,000 Albertans annually within a two-hour drive of Edmonton. Recognizing that Edmonton is the service hub of Northern Alberta, Edmonton's housing ecosystem is not equipped to meet this level of increased demand.

We also recognize that building a prosperous Alberta requires sustainable partnership across all municipalities. That's why we echo the collective advocacy of Alberta Municipalities in calling for increased capital funding through the Local Government Fiscal Framework to address escalating municipal infrastructure pressures.

By working together, these investments will build a competitive capital region and improve quality of life for all Albertans, while allowing City Council to focus on core service improvements.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Knack
Mayor, City of Edmonton

cc: Hon. Dan Williams, Minister, Municipal Affairs
Hon. Mike Ellis, Deputy Premier, Minister, Public Safety and Emergency Services
Hon. Devin Dreeshen, Minister, Transportation and Economic Corridors
Hon. Rick Wilson, Minister, Mental Health and Addiction
Hon. Joseph Schow, Minister, Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration
Hon. Andrew Boitchenko, Minister, Tourism and Sport
Hon. Tanya Fir, Minister, Arts, Culture, and Status of Women
Hon. Nate Glubish, Minister, Technology and Innovation
Hon. Dale Nally, Minister, Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Hon. Nathan Neudorf, Minister, Assisted Living and Social Services
Hon. Searle Turton, Minister, Children and Family Services
Dale McFee, Deputy Minister, Executive Council
Liam Stone, Deputy Minister, Treasury Board and Finance
Edmonton City Council
Eddie Robar, Edmonton City Manager
City of Edmonton Intergovernmental & Regional Affairs

Attachment: City of Edmonton's Priorities for the 2027-28 Government of Alberta Budget

City of Edmonton's Priorities for the 2027-28 Government of Alberta Budget

Priority Requests

Requests from the City of Edmonton
NEW FUNDING FOR BRIDGE RENEWAL Provide a long-term funding commitment to support the City's generational bridge renewal and replacement strategy over the next 10-15 years, which includes the replacement of the High Level Bridge and the Low Level Bridge, at the approximate total cost of $1.3 billion, including an initial $15 million in 2027-28 to support the planning and design for the Low Level Bridge replacement.
ENHANCING ECONOMIC CORRIDORS Provide $160 million to support the City in building an arterial roadway system that unlocks economic growth. These roads are strategically aligned with target industrial sectors and the City's Goods Movement Network. Improvements can unlock new economic opportunities, create jobs, optimize supply chains and reduce commute times. Identified priority projects include: ● Parsons Road (from 19 Avenue to 91 Street SW) ($45 million), ● 215 Street (from Stony Plain Road to Whitemud Drive) ($40 million), ● 41 Avenue SW (from Highway 2 to James Mowatt Trail) ($50 million), and ● 127 Street (from Yellowhead to 137 Avenue) ($25 million).
INDUSTRIAL INFRASTUCTURE READINESS FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION Provide $223 million to increase shovel-ready land required for business expansion and investment attraction in Edmonton, including: ● $71 million to invest in oversized infrastructure for 18 major industrial development projects that will create 450 hectares of new shovel ready land, ● $48 million to enable expansion and investment in six underserviced industrial areas, and ● $104 million to invest in four industrial infrastructure projects to enable business expansion and development in key industrial hubs.
FUNDING PARITY WITH CALGARY Provide $150 million in provincial capital funding previously committed to Edmonton's downtown revitalization and economic growth initiatives. Commensurate with provincial capital investments in Calgary, this funding will catalyze major redevelopment, and boost tourism and economic momentum.

Additional Requests

Requests from the City of Edmonton

SAFETY AND AFFORDABILITY MEASURES AND SOCIAL SUPPORTS (INCLUDING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING)

Total Ask: $59.3 million

To increase affordability, enhance public safety and support vulnerable Edmontonians:

- Provide $5.8 million in Low Income Transit grant funding for 2027-28, and provide ongoing annual funding to make the program permanent.
- Provide $35 million in annual operating funding for five low-barrier Community Service Hubs across the city that integrate basic need provision, community and recreational space, and access to social, cultural, and health services, providing a structured indoor alternative for vulnerable Edmontonians who face barriers to accessing shelter.
- Provide $10.5 million for a package of measures that will increase the safety and vibrancy of Edmonton's downtown core and Chinatown. This includes expanding health-led Rapid Response Teams, support for individuals leaving Edmonton-areas correctional facilities, capital funding for physical improvements based on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, community clean-up programs and financial assistance to small business entrepreneurs in Chinatown.
- Fast-track the implementation of the 400 committed treatment, housing, and stabilization beds in the Edmonton area. Expand immediate capacity for voluntary detoxification and recovery pathways to eliminate growing treatment backlogs.
- Establish a joint planning and investment approach to develop a supportive and transitional recovery housing portfolio, including a provincial operating funding commitment, to submit to Build Canada Homes (BCH).
- Provide operating funding for Edmonton's supportive housing projects, including pre- and post- recovery housing. Specifically, 158 new units in two sites (60 units at Ambrose Place 2 and 98 units at Coliseum Inn) are under construction, requiring an estimated annual operating funding of $8 million.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE: PROVINCIAL-FEDERAL CANADA HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CHIF) AGREEMENT

Allocate $74.4 million for Edmonton's priority housing-enabling water and wastewater infrastructure under the Canada-Alberta CHIF agreement. These two project proposals were previously submitted to the federal government and they are fully scoped and ready for implementation in response to Edmonton's rapid population growth. They will enable water and sewer infrastructure expansion to unlock land for future residential development in southeast Edmonton and install new water mains and fire hydrants in priority growth areas to improve fire flows and service capacity.

Establish a fair and equitable framework to allocate future CHIF funding that supports the needs of urban centres such as Edmonton.

CANADA PUBLIC TRANSIT FUND (CPTF) / STRONG TRANSIT FUND AGREEMENT

Fund the expansion and renewal of Edmonton's transit network as part of the provincial-federal CPTF Strong Transit Fund agreement by advancing the core transit infrastructure and state-of-good-repair projects that have been submitted to Transportation and Economic Corridors for consideration, including:

- Planning and design of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes B1 and B2 in 2027-2029,
- Ongoing conventional diesel bus renewal, and
- Renewal of high-priority LRT facilities (Government Centre Station, Central Station, University Station, and DL MacDonald LRT Garage and Right-of-Way Building) to ensure their state of good repair.