Welcome

La Loche Road Functional Planning Study

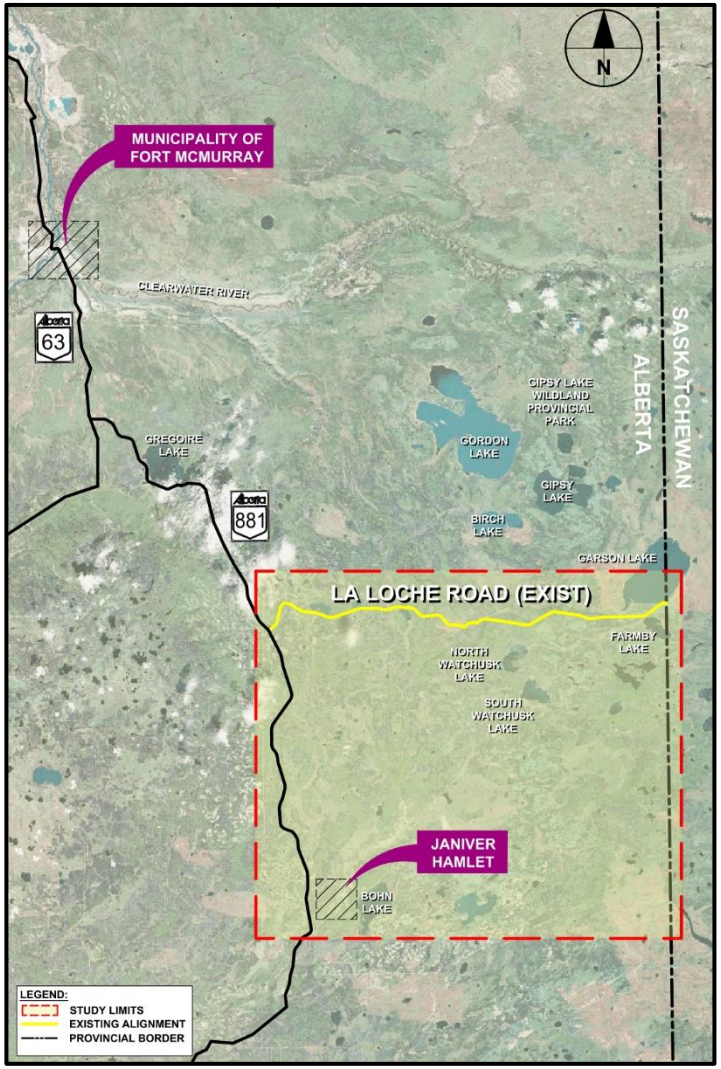
Open House #1
September 16, 2026
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors would like to inform you of this project, and the work completed to date. Please review the display boards and let our project team know if you have any questions.

At this Open House you will be able to:

- Learn about the project and the high-level corridor options under consideration
- Share your feedback on the project

Study Overview



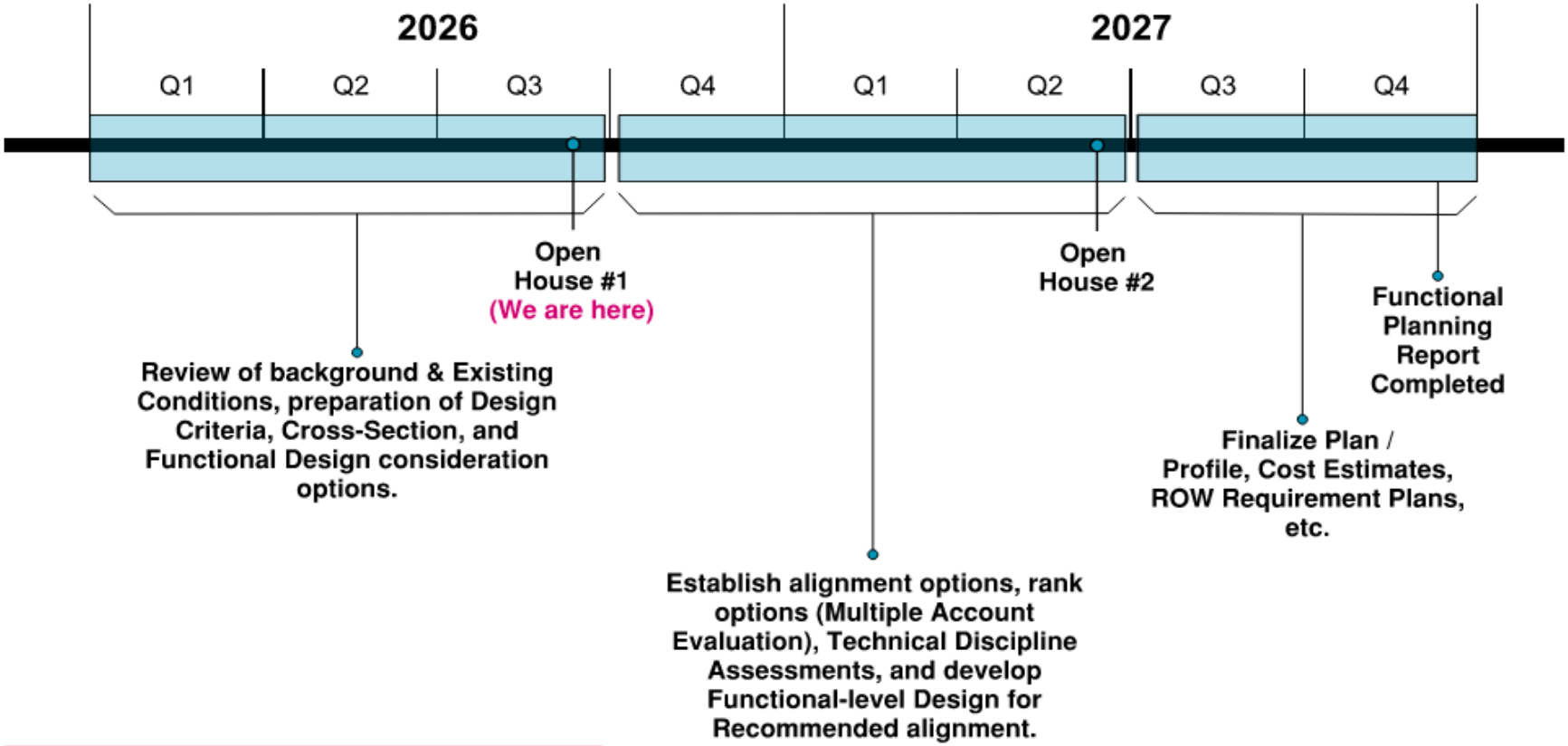
Study Purpose:

The purpose of the study is to complete highway alignment and cross section planning for a new all-weather corridor connecting the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The new roadway will connect to Alberta Highway 881 in the west, and Saskatchewan Highway 956 in the east (approx. 62 km).

Study Objectives / Goals:

- ❑ Identify recommended alignment and cross-section for future La Loche Road
- ❑ Confirm the right-of-way requirements
- ❑ Identify considerations for construction - access management, environmental, utility, drainage, and other requirements

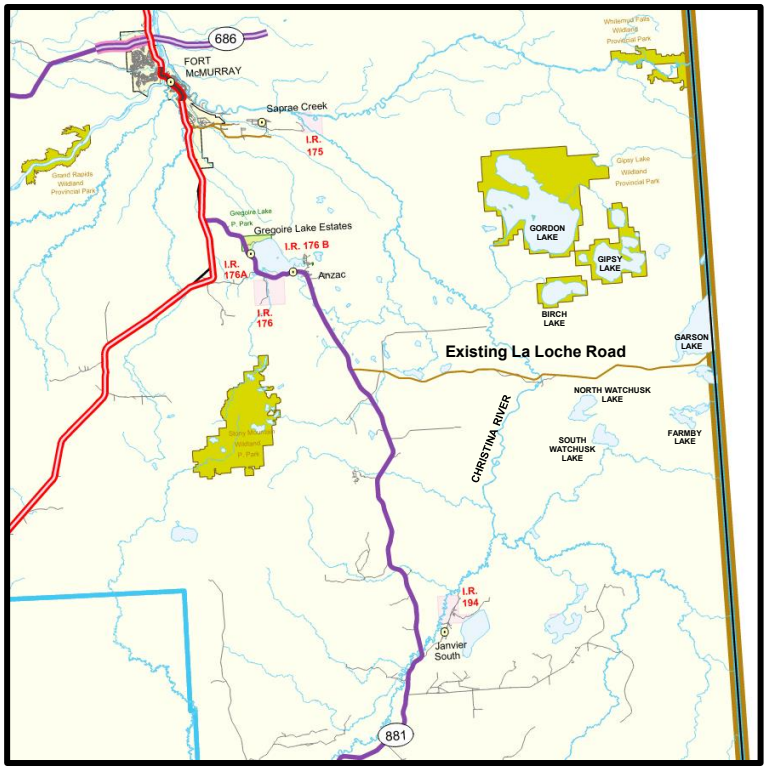
Study Timeline



*Design and construction of this project is not on the current Provincial Construction Program and timelines have not yet been determined at this point. Construction priority will depend on highway capacity, safety concerns, funding availability and the rate of development in the area.

Why a new corridor?

- The existing La Loche Road is an unclassified winter-only road, which limits connectivity and growth potential between the provinces and access to this part of the province.
- A new corridor will link regional communities, provide opportunities for economic development, and create a direct connection for inter-provincial trips.
- The new La Loche Corridor is proposed to be designated as a “Level 2” Rural Arterial Undivided (RAU) highway in the provincial network.
    - Level 2 highways accommodate movement of people, goods, and services between population centers and provincially significant areas
    - An RAU highway focuses on mobility as the priority function with consideration of access

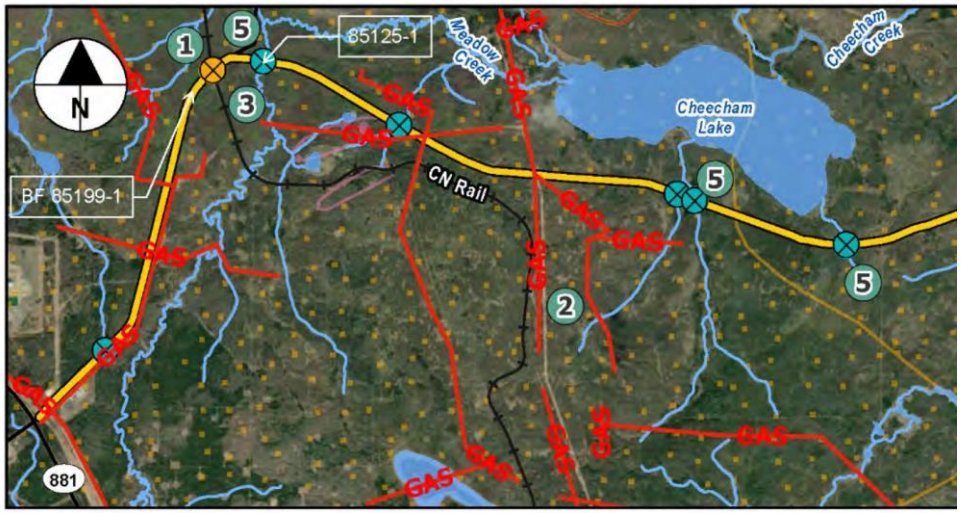


Freeway	RFD	UFD	
Multi-Lane	RAD	UAD	UED
Major	RAU	UAU	
Minor	RCU	UCU	
Non Classified	Municipal / Rural Road		

Key Issues

General Study Area:

- Rolling terrain and steep grades
- Organic soft soils, and permafrost considerations
- Numerous drainage, and utility crossings
- Land and access management considerations
- Construction requirement in green space



Tributary Crossings:

- Numerous potential crossings, including the Christina River
- Require numerous structures for crossings
- Fish Passage considerations

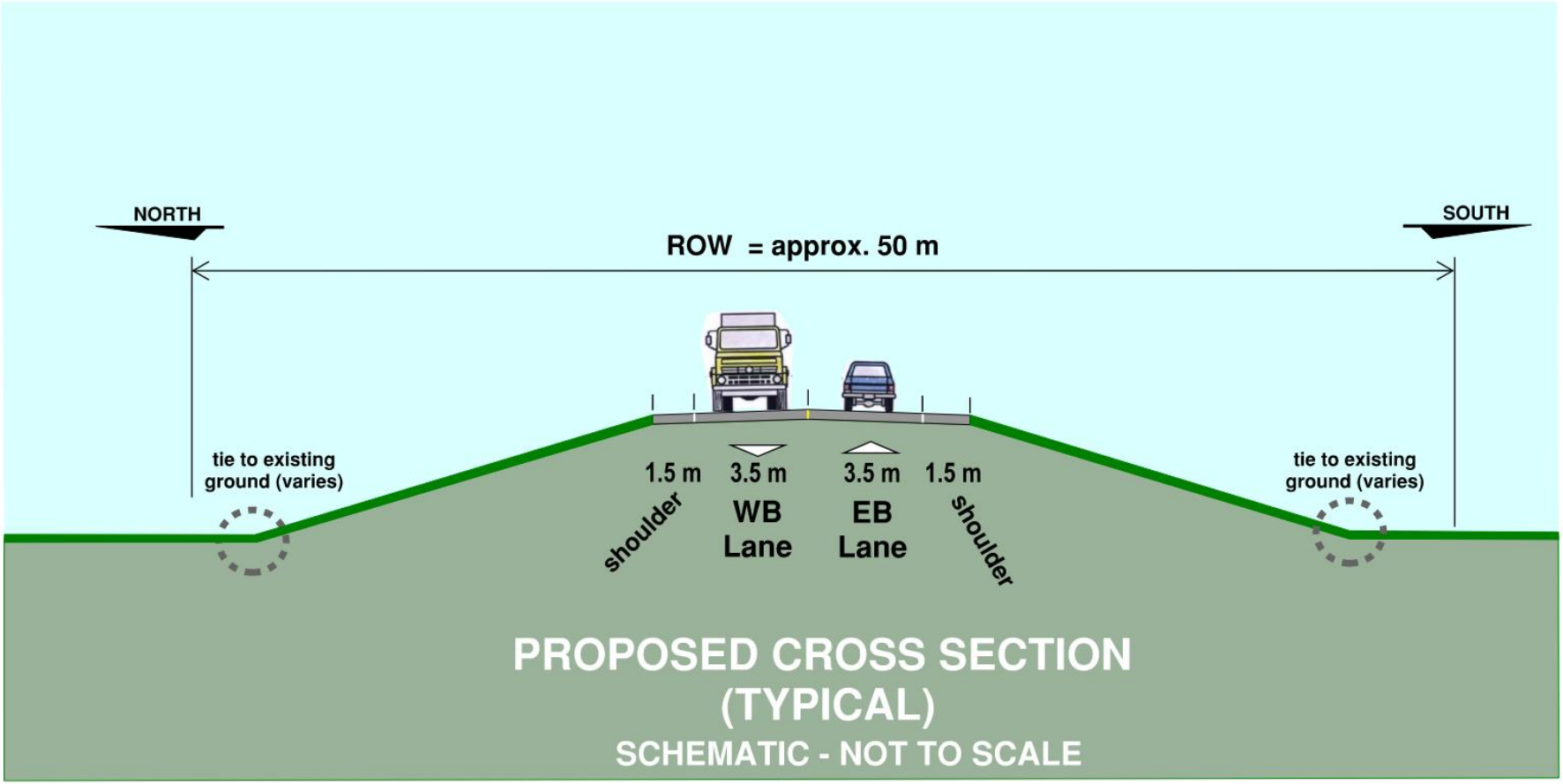
Primary Evaluation Factors - Overall:

- Land impacts / ROW requirements
- Environmental, geo-technical, drainage, structural, and utility Impacts
- Access Management requirements
- Capital cost

Environmental Sensitivity to Habitats:

- Disturbance to Boreal Caribou Ranges
- Heavily forested areas
- Dillon River Wildland Provincial Park
- Gypsy-Gordon Wildland Provincial Park

Cross Sections



PROPOSED CROSS SECTION (TYPICAL) - 110 km/h
Rural Arterial Undivided Highway – 10.0 m Road Width

EXISTING LA LOCHE ROAD

GARSON LAKE

FARMBY LAKE

NORTH WATCHUSK LAKE

SOUTH WATCHUSK LAKE

CHRISTINA RIVER

DILLON RIVER WILDLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

HIGHWAY 881

JANVIER

CHIPEWYAN PRAIRIE FIRST NATION RESERVE

BOHN LAKE

COWPERLAKE INDIAN RESERVE

ALBERTA

SASKATCHEWAN

N

LEGEND

CARIBOU RANGE HIGH RISK	CARIBOU RANGE LOW RISK	ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS
WATERBODY/ WATERCOURSE	FIRST NATION RESERVE	HAMLET
HIGH PRESSURE PIPELINE	WELL	CN RAILWAY
PARK BOUNDARY	HISTORIC RESOURCE VALUES	EXISTING CORRIDOR

SCALE: 1: 20,000

AECOM

Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors

LA LOCHE ROAD FUNCTIONAL PLANNING STUDY
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CONCEPT 4

CONCEPT 1

EXISTING LA LOCHE ROAD

CONCEPT 5

CONCEPT 3

CONCEPT 2

CHRISTINA RIVER

HIGHWAY 881

JANVIER

CHIPEWYAN PRAIRIE
FIRST NATION RESERVE

BOHN
LAKE

COWPERLAKE INDIAN
RESERVE

DILLON RIVER WILDLAND
PROVINCIAL PARK

NORTH
WATCHUSK
LAKE

SOUTH
WATCHUSK
LAKE

GARSON
LAKE

FARMBY
LAKE

ALBERTA

SASKATCHEWAN

N

LEGEND

CONCEPT 1 (EX. LA LOCHE)	CONCEPT 3	CONCEPT 5
CONCEPT 2	CONCEPT 4	PARK BOUNDARY
CN RAILWAY	FIRST NATION RESERVE	HAMLET
CARIBOU RANGE HIGH RISK	CARIBOU RANGE LOW RISK	

SCALE: 1: 20,000

AECOM

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LA LOCHE ROAD FUNCTIONAL PLANNING STUDY
ROADWAY ALIGNMENT CONCEPTS

EXISTING LA LOCHE ROAD

GARSON LAKE

FARMBY LAKE

NORTH WATCHUSK LAKE

SOUTH WATCHUSK LAKE

CHRISTINA RIVER

DILLON RIVER WILDLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

HIGHWAY 881

JANVIER

CHIPEWYAN PRAIRIE FIRST NATION RESERVE

BOHN LAKE

COWPERLAKE INDIAN RESERVE

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SCALE: 1: 20,000

LEGEND

- CONCEPT 1 (EX. LA LOCHE)
- CONCEPT 2
- CONCEPT 3
- CONCEPT 4
- CONCEPT 5
- CARIBOU RANGE HIGH RISK
- HIGH PRESSURE PIPELINE
- WATERBODY/ WATERCOURSE
- CARIBOU RANGE LOW RISK
- FIRST NATION RESERVE
- WELL
- HISTORIC RESOURCE VALUES
- PARK BOUNDARY
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS
- HAMLET
- CN RAILWAY

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LA LOCHE ROAD FUNCTIONAL PLANNING STUDY
CONCEPT OVERLAY

Next Steps ...

The project team will:

- Review the feedback from the public open house and stakeholder meetings to inform the evaluation of the corridor options.
- Complete further technical analysis of the options and select a recommended alignment and associated mitigation.
- Present the recommended plan to stakeholders and the public in Spring of 2027 through another Open House to gather final feedback.

Timeline: Design and Construction of this project is not on the current Provincial Construction Program and timelines have not yet been determined at this point. Design/ Construction priority will depend on highway capacity, safety concerns, funding availability and the rate of development in the area.

Thank You

Thank you for attending the La Loche Road Open House session. Before you leave, please take a moment to fill out the provided feedback form.

If you would like to submit your comments at a later time, please email to the AECOM project team prior to September 25, 2026: LaLocheRoad@aecom.com

The information shown here today will be available on the project website:

www.alberta.ca/la-loche-road-planning-study-highway-881-to-highway-956-saskatchewan

The project website can also be accessed by scanning the QR code below: