

OVERVIEW

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

The existing section of Highway 64 through the Clear River Valley is increasingly at risk of major slides. Alberta Transportation has begun a functional planning study, anticipated to be complete in spring of 2023, to determine if there is a technically feasible alternative alignment for crossing the Clear River Valley.

A functional planning study is the first step in understanding the needs for any future highway or highway upgrading. The study will seek to identify a technically feasible new Highway 64 crossing of the Clear River Valley. A highway realignment through the Clear River Valley is not on the provincial construction program.

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 property owners within the study area
- Assess the reliability, stability, safety and costs of potential alignments
- If a potentially feasible new alignment is identified, develop a realignment plan that:
 - Provides the most appropriate design given site constraints
 - Addresses stability and safety, community interests, environmental, historical resources, drainage, and other impacts
 - Identifies access management needs
 - Identifies land requirements

TIMELINE

- Winter 2022 - Information Gathering
 - Stakeholder Engagement (April)
 - Technical Investigations
- Spring/Summer 2022 – Alternative Development
 - Create Alternatives
 - Technical Analysis
- Summer/Fall 2022 – Compare Alternatives
 - Preliminary Evaluations and Pre-screening
 - Stakeholder & Public Engagement (September)
- Fall/Winter 2022-2023 – Select Preferred New Alignment
 - Technical Analysis
 - Final Evaluations
 - Stakeholder & Public Engagement
- Spring 2023 – Finalize Alignment
 - Develop Functional Plan
 - Municipal Support
 - Alberta Transportation Support

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Key technical factors in the development of alternatives were:

- Geotechnical stability
- River stability
- Roadway design standards and constructability
- Environmental and historical resources

The study team developed and reviewed a number of options and has identified two final alignment alternatives.

NEXT STEPS

In the coming months, the study team will finalize the review and evaluation of alternatives, assess environmental, stormwater, bridge planning, and geotechnical requirements, and develop functional plans for the possible realignment.

A final Information session is tentatively scheduled for early 2023 to present the preferred technically feasible alignment.

The study outcomes will help the province understand if a technically feasible new highway alignment crossing of the Clear River Valley exists.

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

<https://www.alberta.ca/highway-planning-studies.aspx>

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