



## Highway 8 Bridge and Elbow River Wildlife Exclusion Fencing Project Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC)

### Keeping our roads safe for everyone

Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) is committed to making our highways safer. Every year, many vehicle collisions involve wildlife, which can be dangerous to both motorists and wildlife and are costly for everyone involved.

### What's happening?

(We are excited to announce the Highway 8 Bridge and Elbow River Wildlife Exclusion Fencing project, located west of Calgary. This Project aims to enhance safety for drivers and wildlife while ensuring that wildlife can move freely through the Elbow River valley.



### Key features of the Project:

1. **Wildlife Exclusion Fencing:** Exclusion fencing will be installed along both sides of Highway 8 for five kilometres from Highway 201 to Range Road 31. It will help keep wildlife off the highway and guide them to a safe bridge crossing.
2. **Escape Structures:** TEC will install earthen ramps along the fence, called Jump-outs, to help wildlife that might get trapped inside the fence escape to safety.
3. **Bridge Replacement:** The bridge over the Elbow River will be replaced and allow wildlife to safely cross under the highway.



## Benefits of the Project

- **Protecting Drivers:** By preventing animals from entering onto the highway, we can reduce the risk of accidents.
- **Reducing Property Damage:** Fewer animal-vehicle collisions mean less damage to vehicles.
- **Saving Wildlife:** The Project aims to lower the number of wildlife killed on the highway.
- **Improving Wildlife Movement:** Together with the Elbow River bridge, the Project will help wildlife move safely through the area and maintain a long-term connection with natural spaces in the Calgary area

## Did you know?

- Busy roads can restrict wildlife movement and lead to wildlife mortality.
- River valleys, such as the Elbow River, act as important movement corridors for wildlife.
- The new bridge is designed to allow wildlife to cross safely underneath.
- Exclusion fencing has been shown to reduce the number of animal-vehicle collisions by directing wildlife to safe crossing opportunities.



## How can you help?

- Please do not disturb the escape structures; they are there to keep wildlife safe.
- If you notice any holes in the exclusion fence, please report them to the Government of Alberta at <https://511.alberta.ca/contact>. Holes can pose serious risk to both motorists and wildlife.

## Reach out:

To provide feedback on, or report an issue with an AWW project, please go to <https://511.alberta.ca/contact>



## Government support:

Road safety is a top priority. The Government of Alberta has allocated \$15 million over three years under the Budget 2024 Capital Plan to mitigate animal-vehicle collisions and enhance road safety. This funding supports the Highway 8 Bridge and Elbow River Wildlife Exclusion Fencing project and other initiatives across the province aimed at protecting motorists and wildlife.

This Project is part of the Alberta Wildlife Watch Program, which works to minimize animal-vehicle collisions and improve safety for drivers and wildlife. Alberta Wildlife Watch, an animal-vehicle collision safety program, was developed in close collaboration with Federal (Parks Canada) and Provincial Governments (Wildlife Stewardship) with input from academia and environmental non-governmental organizations. For more information about this program, visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-wildlife-watch-program>.

Thank you for your support in keeping our highways safe for everyone.