



# 2026 RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Update from Ryley Girletz, Director  
Municipal Services

# 2026 Priorities

---



Focus on what service standards exist, the alternatives to those standards, and how we communicate them



Goal is to ensure municipal services are consistently delivered and align with Advisory Council direction

# Roads

## 2026 Program & Three-Digit Highways

---

- **2026 Road Program**

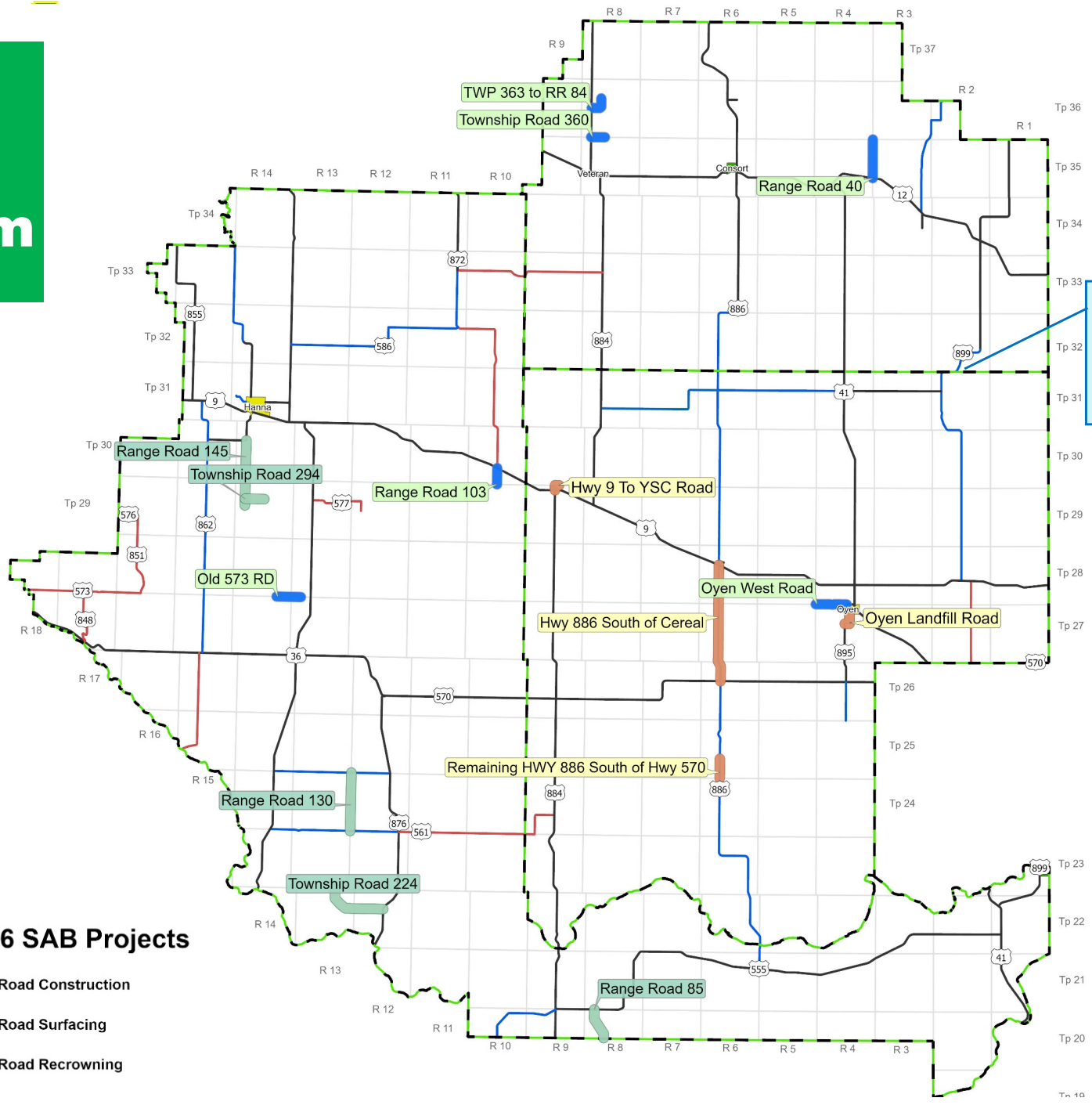
- Road Construction – 21 km
- Road Re-Crowning – 38 km
- Road Surfacing – 26.7 km (*Highway 899 paving deferred to 2027*)

- **Three-Digit Highways**

- Ongoing partnership with Alberta Transportation & Economic Corridors (ATEC)
- Conversations about long-term pavement plan and addressing graveled three-digit highways.
- GBC Program has 3 to 5 years left remaining; the Path to Pavement is the final stage of the Staged Surfacing Strategy



# 2026 Road Program



Hwy 899 Paving deferred to 2027

## 2026 SAB Projects

- Road Construction
- Road Surfacing
- Road Recrowning

# Water

## 2026 Major Projects

---

### **Completion of Regional Waterline Extension from Pemukan to Compeer (*summer 2026*)**

- Managed by Shirley McClellan Regional Water Commission (SMRWC)
- Special Areas is constructing new water facilities in Compeer (truck fill) and Kirriemuir

### **Detailed engineering & further project design on rural potable waterlines in region**

- Public engagement completed in 2025 to assess potential interest in expanding rural potable water systems.
- Advisory Council directed further work be completed on potable waterline expansions. Objective is to bring potential projects to shovel-ready status to allow project funding decisions and support access to grant programs.
- More information available at [www.specialareas.ab.ca](http://www.specialareas.ab.ca)



# Emergency Services

## 2026 Major Projects



- **SAB Regional Fire Services:**
  - Radio systems moving to Alberta First Responders Radio Communications (AFFRCS)
- **Regional Emergency Management:**
  - Collaborating with municipalities in the region on Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP)
    - Special Area No. 2, 3, & 4; M.D. of Acadia; Towns - Hanna, Oyen; Villages - Consort, Empress, Veteran, Youngstown
  - REMP **full functional** exercise planned for June; participating municipalities meeting legislated requirements.

# Parks & Campgrounds

## 2026 Major Projects

---

- **Prairie Oasis Park:**
  - Marina boardwalk & dock improvements (*fall*)
  - Concession upgrades (*fall*)
  - Push button showers installed (*spring*)
- **Blood Indian Park:**
  - Playground updates & push button showers
- **Annual Visitor Surveys for Special Areas Campgrounds**
  - Very positive feedback – 4 ½ to 5 star rating (*out of maximum 5 star rating*)
  - 2025 report & 2026 survey links available on Special Areas Board website
- **Operational agreement in place with Province for Little Fish Lake & Gooseberry Lake Provincial Parks**



# Facilities Management

## 2026 Projects



- New Manager recruitment
- Upgrades at communication towers
- Demolition of old Cereal Hall
- Dam safety:
  - Bartman Dam stabilization
  - Blood Indian Dam spillway engineering



# Questions

P: (403) 854-5603

[Ryley.Girletz@specialareas.ab.ca](mailto:Ryley.Girletz@specialareas.ab.ca)

[www.specialareas.ab.ca](http://www.specialareas.ab.ca)