

PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN THE SPECIAL AREAS - GENERAL

The Special Areas Board (“the Board”) recognizes meaningful public consultation is a critical part of the municipal decision-making process. The Board is committed to creating opportunities for meaningful public participation in municipal decisions which directly impact ratepayers.

The key principles of engagement which frame public consultation in the Special Areas are clarity, accountability, transparency, respect, and responsiveness. To learn more about public engagement in the Special Areas, visit <https://specialareas.ab.ca/about/public-consultation/>.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT & SPECIAL AREAS BOARD – BYLAWS VS. MINISTERIAL ORDERS

As Special Areas is a crown agency, Section 7 and 187 of the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* are not applicable to the Special Areas Board. The general jurisdiction to pass bylaws (or equivalent controls) remains under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Municipal Affairs as outlined in the *Special Areas Act (SAA)*.

Section 13 (1) of the *SAA* provides the authority for the Minister to close roads, trails and bridges in the Special Areas for the purpose of travel or use and would potentially use a Ministerial Order to do so. However, this authority has been delegated to the Special Areas Board in the Ministerial Order for Delegation of Authority (MSL:009/15). As a result, a Board Order is planned to make this declaration.

As closing a bridge falls under the municipal role of the Special Areas Board; the Board is adhering to the requirements outlined in Section 187 of the *Municipal Government Act* (Passing a Bylaw). These include:

- Having three (3) distinct and separate readings.
- Ensuring each Board Member is present when first reading takes place.
- Ensuring each Board Member is present at meeting(s) where further reading(s) take place; and
- Ensuring the Board Order does not have more than two readings at a Board Meeting unless the Board Members present unanimously agree to consider a third reading.

The role of public consultation is to ensure the Board is acting in the public interest, and to provide an opportunity for impacted persons to share feedback on the proposed bridge closure. Once the draft Bridge Closure Board Order (BO) has first reading, the formal public hearing process begins. This allows any members of the public to address the Board in a public meeting where they can speak to their concern(s) with the draft document. Any amendments would need to be approved by the Board prior to a second reading. If the draft Board Order is read for a second time by the Board, the Board Order would be signed in place of third reading.

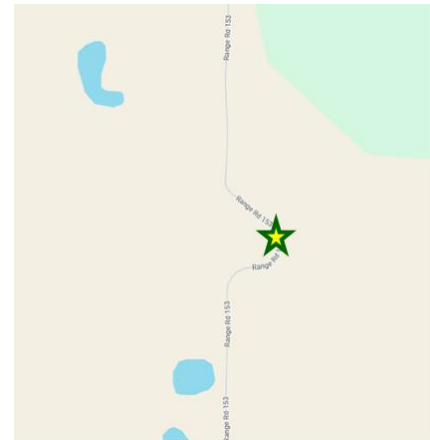
PROPOSED BF83165 (ROBINSON) BRIDGE CLOSURE

The proposed Bridge Closure Order is intended to close BF83165 (Robinson) Bridge as the structure has structural issues which create a public safety hazard.

This bridge is located on Range Road 15-3, one mile north of Highway 9 and one mile south of Twp Rd 31-4.

The bridge structure is located on a back trail, and alternate routes are available if this structure is closed.

Inspections confirmed structural issues, and the continued use of the bridge by vehicles above the restricted weight currently permitted creates safety concerns.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION – JUNE / JULY 2026

Public consultation related to the proposed Bridge Closure Board Order has been underway since first reading of the document was held on June 9, 2026.

Communication activities include advertising for the public hearing (scheduled for July 28, 2026), as well as providing information related to the proposed amendment online and at local district offices. Detailed activities, as well as copies of communications materials are presented in *Appendix A*. These included:

- Advertisements in local media for the weeks of July 6, 13 & 20, including Oyen Echo, Consort Enterprise, and the Hanna Coffee Break;
- Advertisement of public hearing online on a weekly basis since June 23, and posting proposed Board Order document on Special Areas website;
- Notice of public hearing posted at Special Areas district offices with information packages;

As a part of this public consultation, individuals were invited to provide written comments through both mail and email (public.input@specialareas.ab.ca). Submissions had to be received by 4:30pm on July 24, 2026. This submission deadline was well communicated in advance.

One written submission was received by the deadline informing Special Areas about a headstone being located on the northwest side of the bridge and asking that it be respected while work takes place, but had no comment on for or against closing the bridge.

PUBLIC HEARING – JULY 28, 2026

A public hearing was held at 1:00 pm on July 28, 2026 in Hanna, AB. Four members of the public attended. The purpose of the proposed Bridge Closure Order was reviewed.

As a part of the public hearing, written submissions were presented. Only one submission was received within the deadline and no submissions were received after the deadline. A copy of this submission has been added to *Appendix B*. It was noted the written submission had a neutral tone of the proposed bridge closure and was letting Special Areas know there is a headstone on the northwest side of the bridge and asked that it be respected during this process.

Members of the public attending shared their feedback related to the proposed Bridge Closure Order. Three members of the public were against the proposed closure; one member of the public was in support. Comments included discussion on if there were other options available such as a low-level crossing/culvert that would help maintain the bridge status without the expensive costs to

fully replace/repair the bridge. Some concerns were raised about the increased traffic levels on this road, as it is an unmaintained backtrail and landowners having to help pull drivers out when they get stuck in the wintertime, and issues like illegal waste dumping and loitering.

A copy of the public hearing minutes is presented in *Appendix C*.

SECOND READING

On July 28, 2026 after the public hearing, the Board discussed feedback received through the public consultation process and the public hearing.

The proposed Bridge Closure Order was discussed, with a motion made for the Special Areas Board to close the BF83165 (Robinson) Bridge.

BOARD ORDER (THIRD READING)

The proposed Board Order was signed as the third reading, pursuant to Section 187 of the *Municipal Government Act* (Passing a Bylaw) and Section 13 (1) of the *Special Areas Act*.

The Board Order was posted on the Special Areas Board website:
(<https://specialareas.ab.ca/about/documents/>).

APPENDIX A – COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES & MATERIALS

After first reading was held, a public hearing was scheduled and advertised in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Advertising / Communications

- Advertising in local newspapers two weeks prior to public hearing
 - Weeks of July 6 / 13 / 20 – Hanna Coffee Break, Oyen Echo, Consort Enterprise



Special Areas Board
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Bridge Closing (BF 83165 - Robinson)

**A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026
BEGINNING AT 1:00 PM.**

**LOCATION: SPECIAL AREA NO. 2, HANNA OFFICE BOARDROOM
212 - 2 AVE W, HANNA, AB**

The Minister of Municipal Affairs proposes the closing of BF 83165 (Robinson) Bridge.

BF83165 (Robinson) Bridge is located on Range Road 15-3, one mile north of Highway 9 and one mile south of TWP RD 31-4. This structure has structural issues creating a safety hazard to the travelling public.

Copies of the Proposed Bridge Closure Board Order are available at www.specialareas.ab.ca and at Special Areas District Offices during regular business hours.

Any person adversely or otherwise affected by this action, and wishing to address the Board relating to this matter, may attend the public hearing at 1:00 pm on July 28, 2026. Time limit of oral presentations is subject to the Chair's discretion.

If you would like to attend this public hearing virtually, please register to attend by emailing communications@specialareas.ab.ca. Requests must be received by Friday, July 24 at 4:30 pm.

Written comments and suggestions are invited and should be addressed to Intention of BF83165 (Robinson) Bridge Closure. **Written submissions must be received by 4:30 pm on Friday, July 24, 2026.**

Submissions may be mailed to:

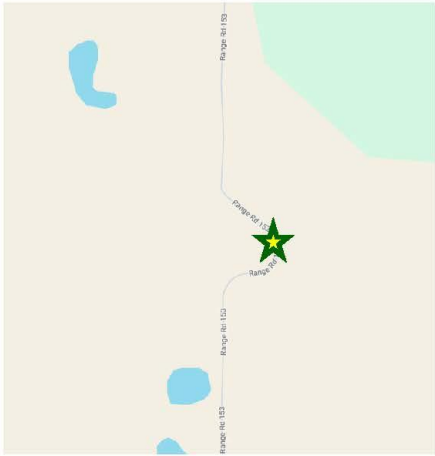
Maeghan Chostner, Communications
Special Areas Board
Box 820, 212-2nd Ave. W.
Hanna, AB T0J 1P0

Email: public.input@specialareas.ab.ca

Written comments will be presented publicly to the Board at the above hearing date.

This notice is given pursuant to Sections 606 and 692 of the *Municipal Government Act*.

First Publication: July 6, 2026
Second Publication: July 13, 2026



Social Media Posts

DATE	POST CONTENT	IMAGE
June 26 July 3 July 16 July 22	🔔 Have your say! 🚧 Special Areas wants to hear from you about the proposed closure of Robinson Bridge (BF83165), located on RR 15-3 one mile north of Highway 9. This structure has structural issues, creating safety concerns for the traveling public. 🗣️ A public hearing is being held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 in Hanna, AB in the Main Boardroom of the Special Areas Board offices (212-2nd Ave. W). Not able to attend in person? You can register to attend virtually by emailing communications@specialareas.ab.ca by Friday, July 24. 💬 You can also tell us what you think by sharing written feedback by Friday, July 24. All written submissions will be shared with the Special Areas Board ahead of the public hearing and included in the public consultation report. 🔗 Learn more at: https://specialareas.ab.ca/2026/06/proposed-bridge-closure/	 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Proposed Closure Robinson Bridge (BF83165) Public hearing at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28 in Hanna, AB. Learn more at specialareas.ab.ca
July 27	❗ REMINDER ❗ 🗣️ A public hearing is being held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 in Hanna, AB in the Main Boardroom of the Special Areas Board offices (212-2nd Ave. W) for the proposed closure of Robinson Bridge (BF83165). 🚧 Robinson Bridge (BF83165) is located on RR 15-3 one mile north of Highway 9. 🔗 Learn more at: https://specialareas.ab.ca/2026/06/proposed-bridge-closure/	 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Proposed Closure Robinson Bridge (BF83165) Public hearing at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28 in Hanna, AB. Learn more at specialareas.ab.ca

Website News Post (June 23, 2026)

Public Hearing - Proposed Bridge Closure - Robinson Bridge (BF83165)

(<https://specialareas.ab.ca/2026/06/proposed-bridge-closure/>)

The Special Areas Board is holding a public hearing on Tuesday, July 28 at 1:00 pm in Hanna, AB at the Special Areas Board Office – Main Boardroom (212-2nd Ave. W.). You can learn more about the proposed Bridge Closure Board Order including how it allows members of the public to attend public hearings via electronic or virtual means, by viewing the draft document [here](#). This public hearing will give any person adversely or otherwise affected by the proposed Bridge Closure Board Order an opportunity to address the Board directly. Time limit of oral presentations is subject to the Chair's discretion.

Not able to attend the public hearing? Written comments and suggestions are invited and can be submitted via email to public.input@specialareas.ab.ca or by mail to:

Maeghan Chostner, Communications Officer
Special Areas Board
Box 820, 212-2nd Ave. W.
Hanna, AB T0J 1P0

Written submissions must be received by 4:30 pm on Friday, July 24, 2026. Written comments will be presented publicly to the Board at the above hearing date.

PROJECT COMMUNICATION SUMMARY

Type	Active Dates	Tool*	Audience	Channel	Frequency
Public Hearing Advertisements	2 weeks prior to each public hearing	Advertisement re: public hearing highlighting the written submission deadline of July 24, 2026	All Stakeholders	Local Print media (Hanna, Consort, Oyen)	Weekly (July 6/13/20)
Public Hearing – social/online	June 23-July 27	Create news post on the public hearing. Weekly post on SAB socials advertising public hearing and written submission date.	All Stakeholders	SAB website/social media	June 26/ July 3/16/22/17 June 23
Public Hearing	July 28, 1:00 pm	Open public meeting for comments	Attendees of public hearing	In-person & online if needed	Once

APPENDIX B – WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

NAME	CONTACT METHOD	DATE RECEIVED	SUMMARY OF CONCERNS
Linda Nelson-Karg	Email	July 13, 2026	Mother's headstone on the NW side of the bridge - to be respected Written submission attached (dated July 13, 2026) which was sent via email.

From: [L. Nelson-Karg](#)
To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Re: BF 83165 - Robinson 'Notice of Public Hearing'
Date: July 13, 2026 10:34:21 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Relative to the Bridge Closing, my mother Sylvia Robinson was the oldest of the Robinson children and was raised on the hill just west of the bridge. When she got cancer she asked to be cremated and her ashes buried by the creek near the noted bridge you are planning on closing.

May I please request that the headstone that we put on the north west side of the bridge be respected when the bridge is removed.

If you need more clarity on location of headstone, I can meet with someone from Special Areas at the site. I live in Hanna at [REDACTED].

Thank you for showing respect of my mother's headstone...

Yours truly,

Linda Nelson-Karg
Phone: 403-8[REDACTED]

Appendix C – Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**1:01 PM**

A public hearing was held in the Downstairs Boardroom at the Hanna Office on July 28, 2026 at 1:00 PM with the following in attendance:

Brad Slorstad, Kevin Wilson and Doug Noble (via Teams), Board Members; Shaune Kovitch, Chair; Ryley Girletz, and Darren Jones, Directors; Maeghan Chostner and Candace Gutsche, Communications; and Shyanne Jones, Recording Secretary.

There were four members of the public present and one member of administration.

Mr. Kovitch welcomed the public and introductions were made around the room and online.

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 1:01 PM and explained the purpose and process of the hearing.

Ms. Gutsche reviewed the proposed closure of BF83165 (Robinson Bridge) Order. As a Crown Agency, all portions of the *MGA* do not apply, however the Special Areas Board does strive to follow the process outlined in the *MGA* when conducting municipal services business. The Minister has delegated the authority to close roads, trails and bridges in the Special Areas for the purpose of travel or use.

The Order, once signed by the Chair, will allow for the bridge to be closed to the public.

There was one written submission received requesting consideration for a headstone on the NW side of the bridge.

Members of the public were invited to speak.

Mr. Bossert requested clarity on the rationale for closing the bridge.

Mr. Girletz noted the bridge is currently restricted due to structural issues; there are still some overweight loads going over the bridge. The cost to replace the bridge is between \$150,000 -

\$250,000 – even with a culvert. There will be environmental wetland requirements to consider.

Mr. Scott is against the closure as it is a public road allowance.

Mr. Hutton is against the closure and would like to see access through the area.

Mr. Robinson would like to see the bridge closed, there is a lot more traffic and folks dump garbage there that needs to be cleaned up.

Mr. Kovitch noted detailed engineering designs have not been commissioned at this point.

Mr. Girletz noted the underside of the bridge is a concern and has not been investigated because of current water levels.

Mr. Robinson noted there are safety concerns with the hills and curves near the bridge.

Mr. Kovitch thanked Ms. Gutsche for the presentation and the members of the public for coming today.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing at 1:22 pm.

Chair, Special Areas Board