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New economic opportunities with highway rest areas

Alberta's government is searching for interested parties to develop up to 18 commercial safety rest areas across the province.

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Following extensive feedback from municipalities and the trucking industry over the last 18 months, the Government of Alberta is eager to see these commercial sites take shape. New rest areas will allow people to fuel up, stretch their legs or stop for a meal. Construction will generate good-paying jobs.

“Albertans, truckers and visitors do a lot of travelling on our highways, and they need safe places to pull over, rest and have a meal. Alberta's government is grateful for the feedback we received, including from commercial truck drivers. They help keep our economy rolling, and they deserve better amenities.”

Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Transportation

A Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) is now posted online. Interested companies can submit a proposal. Following the RFEI, a Request for Proposal (RFP) process will include awarding contracts later in 2022. Construction is anticipated to begin as early as 2023.

“For years, our industry has advocated for safe, clean, and well-equipped commercial rest areas, which are essential to the wellbeing of both professional commercial drivers and public motorists. We thank the provincial government for responding to this urgent need, and we support these efforts to establish a safer and more dignified environment for our industry.”

Chris Nash, President, Alberta Motor Transport Association

“We appreciate the government's ongoing commitment to the trucking industry. These new rest stops will fulfill all our drivers' needs, allowing them to resume their journey safely, following a well deserved break.”

Inder Grewal, Owner, Dreamliner Express

“The development of new commercial safety rest areas in Alberta will not only give travellers a safe place to take a break, it will support economic development and job creation in rural communities. Rural Alberta has something to offer everyone and these new rest areas will make rural communities more accessible to all Albertans.”

Paul McLaughlin, President, Rural Municipalities of Alberta

“Penhold's proximity to the Junction 42 rest stop has not only increased job opportunities for Penhold residents, it has also increased traffic and tourism opportunities within our community. We

are excited to see travellers enjoy our community and for the new possibilities and growth that are following the development of Junction 42.”

Michael Yargeau, Mayor, Town of Penhold

Sites currently identified for development, as well as future sites, will only be developed following consultation and input from local stakeholders to ensure any concerns are addressed.

Quick facts

- Alberta Transportation is providing the opportunity to develop government-owned land along major highways.
- Costs associated with commercial developments will be paid by the private sector and recovered through business revenue.
- Commercial Safety Rest Areas are successful across North America and can provide many benefits in Alberta including:
 - Improving highway safety by providing a place to park and rest.
 - Enhancing travel experiences of Albertans and visitors by offering fuel, food and other commercial services.
 - Provide innovative, efficient and environmentally sustainable services with newer infrastructure and potential for new technology such as vehicle charging stations.

Related information

- [Contract opportunities with the Government of Alberta](#)
- [Alberta Purchasing Connection](#)