

Rural Highway Strategy (RHS) – Prioritization Process

Guideline for “Local Social Economic Activity Factor” Considerations

by the Rural Highway Advisory Committee (RHAC)

The Rural Highway Strategy (RHS) – Capital Improvement Initiative has a rational and consistent priority ranking methodology based on a multiple factor evaluation system. Twelve factors are evaluated to determine the priority ranking of a highway section for upgrading. The values of most factors are objectively quantified through engineering analysis and the inputs of third party priorities. A transparent process has been established to review the priority factors and the methodology by the Rural Highway Advisory Committee (RHAC).

The “Local Social Economic Activity” factor is one of the twelve factors of the methodology that provides municipalities and First Nation groups an opportunity to present their local information to the RHAC. This local specific information may not have been adequately considered under the other eleven factors. Based on the information presented, the RHAC committee will assign a point (up to 5) to the “Local Social Economic Activity” factor for the coming year update of the Rolling 5-year Capital Plan.

The RHAC will consider the following information when assigning points to the “Local Economic Activity” factor:

1. Existing Infrastructure and Capacity
 - Status of existing facilities in an area/community (e.g. hospitals, schools, banks, etc.)
 - Existing infrastructure capacity to service future industry (e.g. water, sewer, pipelines, high-speed internet, cell phone coverage, an aquifer, etc.)
 - Ability to expand (e.g. available lots)
2. Dependence of the Area/Community on the Highway
 - Number of highways and rural municipal roads that provide access to the area/community
 - Health/emergency vehicles and school bus use of the road
 - Existing industries in the area/community that are dependent on the highway and municipal roads (including size and number of employees)
 - Volume of commodity to be hauled on the highway and rural municipal roads
3. Economic Growth
 - Population growth in the area/community during the last few years
 - New businesses in the area/community and commitments of additional businesses in the future
 - Existing business expansion in the area/community and commitments of additional future expansion
 - Major natural resources and development in the area with specific implications on the highway system

Municipalities and First Nation groups will be invited to meet with and present information to the RHAC.

All information for the Rural Highway Advisory Committee must be received by May 1st to be included in the annual update of priority ranking of the Rural Highway Strategy for the upcoming year.

Please contact David Smith, Senior Manager of Infrastructure Policy and Safety, at 787-4758 for more information.

The Rural Highway Advisory Committee consists of representatives from nine member organizations:

1. Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
2. Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
3. Area Transportation Planning Committees
4. Saskatchewan Economic Development Association
5. Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
6. Tourism Saskatchewan
7. Industry (Forestry, Oil and Gas, Manufacturing & Mining)
8. Enterprise Saskatchewan
9. Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure