



ASB Committee <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

Resolution Response Requested - AB Agricultural Service Board (AR88800)

1 message

TRANS Minister <Transportation.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Tue, Feb 22, 2022 at 3:20 PM

To: "asbprovcommittee@gmail.com" <asbprovcommittee@gmail.com>

Cc: "AFRED Minister (AF & RED)" <AFRED.Minister@gov.ab.ca>, Darren Davidson <darren.davidson@gov.ab.ca>

Dear Mr. Dutrisac:

Thank you for your February 1, 2022 email including the 2022 Agricultural Service Board Resolution 1-22: Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways. I appreciate the working relationship my department has established with the Agricultural Service Board and look forward to continuing to work together to address vegetation management in the provincial highway rights-of-way.

The Government of Alberta understands the importance of vegetation management. We have needed to closely manage our highway maintenance funding over the past few years, which has impacted some summer maintenance activities, such as full right-of-way mowing. Alberta Transportation's goal is to balance funding challenges with the need for maintenance activities that relate to public safety, while still providing an acceptable overall level of service. As such, funding for vegetation management, including mowing, has focused mainly on safety-related concerns such as sight lines at intersections. However, we recognize the other benefits of mowing, such as improved drainage, improved visibility of wildlife, reduced risk of wildfire spread and controlling brush growth.

In order to ensure mowing and chemical weed control budgets are used in the best possible manner, Alberta Transportation is planning to conduct a program-level review of our vegetation management program to ensure its ongoing effectiveness. This effort will include development of a vegetation management plan framework; this framework will provide a consistent platform for an annual update regarding expected budgets, mowing frequency, herbicide application, innovations/trials, and stakeholder consultation/collaboration. The review is planned to begin in fall 2022, and until the review is completed we will strive to balance funding challenges with respect to vegetation management. Alberta Transportation appreciates the input you have provided on this issue.

Alberta Transportation is also grateful for the assistance that the Agricultural Fieldmen of the various Agricultural Service Boards throughout the province have provided to date, with weed notices issued to Alberta Transportation's district offices being an effective driver for weed control action. This process allows for targeted mitigation at locations of the highest priority to the Agricultural Fieldmen and Albertans.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Darren Davidson, Regional Director and Operations Process Management Committee (OPMC) Executive Sponsor. Mr. Davidson can be reached toll free at 310 0000, then 403-381-5533, or at darren.davidson@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you for sharing the Agricultural Service Board resolution with me.

Sincerely,

Rajan Sawhney

Minister of Transportation

cc: Honourable Nate Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development
Darren Davidson, Regional Director and OPMC Executive Sponsor

Classification: Protected A