

September 28, 2026

Hon. Kim Gartner
Minister of Highways
Government of Saskatchewan
Regina, Saskatchewan

Re: Saskatoon Freeway – It Is Time to Move Forward

Dear Minister Gartner:

On behalf of the NSBA – Saskatoon's Business Association, we are writing to urge you and the Government of Saskatchewan to move decisively toward construction of the Saskatoon Freeway.

The Saskatoon Freeway has been discussed for decades. Considerable planning, engineering, environmental assessment and public consultation have now been undertaken. With functional planning expected to be completed in 2026, we believe the province has reached the point where the focus must shift from studying the need for the freeway to delivering it.

The case for the Saskatoon Freeway is becoming stronger every year.

Saskatoon is growing. The communities surrounding Saskatoon are growing even faster. The number of vehicles using our transportation network is increasing. Collision numbers are rising. And in 2026, Saskatoon has experienced an extraordinary series of incidents in which commercial vehicles have struck bridges and overpasses, disrupting traffic and causing significant infrastructure damage.

These are not isolated issues. Together, they demonstrate that the transportation network serving Saskatoon and the surrounding region is under increasing pressure and needs additional capacity and more appropriate routes for regional and commercial traffic.

A growing regional population is putting pressure on Saskatoon's roads. The transportation challenge facing Saskatoon cannot be considered solely in terms of Saskatoon's municipal population. There is also a clear indication of continued growth in vehicle demand. Saskatchewan's new motor vehicle sales increased 8.6% year-over-year in June 2026, from 4,656 vehicles in June 2025 to 5,056 in June 2026.

The safety argument for improving the regional transportation network is also becoming increasingly compelling. Saskatoon recorded 5,193 collisions in 2025, approximately 10% more than the 4,724 recorded in 2024. A properly designed freeway network would provide commercial traffic with an alternative route around the city rather than forcing all regional movements through urban corridors and under existing structures.

The province has already invested significant time and resources into understanding the project. The Saskatoon Freeway's planning process has examined corridor options, traffic requirements, interchanges, environmental considerations, land requirements and the South Saskatchewan River crossing. The river

crossing analysis alone evaluated multiple bridge concepts against factors including environmental impacts, construction feasibility, life-cycle costs and economic-development considerations. Public engagement has also been extensive.

This is not a request to build a freeway without understanding its implications. It is a request to take the next step after years of planning and engagement.

The NSBA respectfully urges you to:

1. Commit publicly to advancing the Saskatoon Freeway toward construction once functional planning is completed, by placing Phase 1 of the Saskatoon Freeway on the Province's Five-Year Capital Plan.
2. Establish a clear implementation schedule for detailed design, environmental approvals, land acquisition and construction.
3. Develop a phased construction strategy that allows the highest-priority sections to proceed as funding becomes available.
4. Prioritize the river crossing and major highway connections that will provide the greatest immediate benefit to regional and commercial traffic.
5. Work with the federal government to secure infrastructure and trade-corridor funding, given the project's importance to the movement of Saskatchewan exports.
6. Engage the City of Saskatoon, the RM of Corman Park, Warman, Martensville, Indigenous communities, landowners and the business community in developing the implementation plan.

Minister, Saskatchewan's economic growth depends upon our ability to move people and products efficiently. Despite already being the economic hub for the province, Saskatoon is becoming an increasingly important transportation, commercial and industrial hub. At the same time, the communities immediately surrounding the city are experiencing remarkable population growth. The result is predictable: more people, more vehicles, more freight and more pressure on the roads that connect them.

The NSBA therefore urges you to move the Saskatoon Freeway from planning to implementation and establish a clear path toward construction. It is time to build the infrastructure required for the Saskatchewan of tomorrow, not simply maintain the transportation network designed for the Saskatchewan of yesterday.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your officials to discuss the business community's priorities for advancing this important project.

Sincerely,



Keith Moen
Executive Director, NSBA