



ALBERTA

TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

May 15, 2024

AR 97422

Mr. Ken King
Reeve
Kneehill County
Box 400
Three Hills, AB T0M 2A0
kenneth.king@kneehillcounty.com

Dear Reeve King:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Badlands Motorsport Resort. As you noted, I met with the Badlands Recreation Development Corporation in January 2024. Bryce Stewart, Deputy Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors also met with Mr. Zelazo on September 6, 2023, and a followup letter was sent to Mr. Zelazo on September 20, 2023.

The September 20, 2023 letter reiterated the importance of the Badlands Recreation Development Corporation working with Kneehill County on a possible application for Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC) grant funding through the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP). The county can apply for STIP grant funding under the Local Municipal Initiatives stream, and the annual deadline for applications is November 30. Once applications are received, all projects are rated on a province-wide, competitive basis.

Of note, based on the STIP program eligibility, if an application for the improvements to Range Road 213 is approved, the grant funding would likely be a maximum 50 per cent provincial, 50 per cent municipal. Park access roads are eligible to receive 75 per cent provincial grant funding; however, our early assessment indicates that Badlands Motorsports Resort is not considered a park under the program. If approved, Kneehill County would be responsible for delivering the project, with grant funding from the province, and Range Road 213 would be required to remain a public access roadway.

STIP has specific eligibility criteria for funding; if you are interested, they can be found online at www.alberta.ca/stip. In addition to potential grant funding from TEC, it is recommended Badlands Recreation Development Corporation continue advocating for one-time funding with other Government of Alberta ministries.

.../2

There is a higher chance of receiving Government of Alberta grant funding if they have secured support from municipal partners and can clearly outline the economic benefits of the project for all Albertans.

Regarding your second question, there are no funding commitments or guarantees made prior to the evaluation and approval of the province-wide applications received for STIP grant funding. An application from Kneehill County for STIP related to the Badlands Motorsport Resort project will not impact the municipality's ability to apply for other municipal projects, as each project/application is evaluated on its own merit. The county could therefore submit multiple STIP applications in the same year.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Devin Dreeshen".

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

cc: Honourable Nathan Cooper, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills