
FACTSHEET

June 2024

Ministry of Forests Engineering Roads Funding Policy

- The Ministry of Forests has developed a road funding policy to serve as a framework to allocate funds for the maintenance, improvement and closure of Forest Service Roads (FSRs) maintained by the Crown.
- FSRs are not built or maintained to the same standards as public highways. Many resource roads are not maintained for vehicular traffic. Most resource roads have rough, loose gravel surfaces and are narrow (often one lane wide).
- The Ministry does not receive specific funding to maintain alternate egress routes. Egress routes may be comprised of active or inactive FSRs, non-status roads, other resource roads or public highways. Alternate egress routes may be activated during emergency response activities throughout B.C. The decision to utilize an FSR as an alternate egress route is completed on a case-by-case basis.
- The Ministry prioritizes how funds are allocated to FSR maintenance (operating) and major road and bridge improvement (capital) projects in the following order:
 - Roads accessing:
 1. Communities (First Nation and non-First Nation)
 2. Rural residences
 3. High value recreation sites
- The Engineering Program has an annual capital budget of \$26.3 million for major upgrades to the 12,000 kilometres capital road network in B.C. in Fiscal Year 2024/25.
- In addition, a \$17 million operational budget is available annually to maintain 45,000 kilometres of FSRs, where the priority is on the capital road network for Fiscal Year 2024/25.
- Of the 60,000 kilometres of FSRs in British Columbia, 15,000 kilometres are maintained by BC Timber Sales. The Engineering Roads Funding Policy does not cover these roads.
- If not maintained to a high-clearance vehicle standard, wilderness roads deteriorate and, unless an industrial user assumes maintenance obligations, eventually must be deactivated to reduce risks to the environment, the public, and other objectives. The decision to deactivate FSRs is made carefully with consideration to multiple priorities and impacts.
- The Ministry's Engineering Program staff maintain roads and make capital improvements, as they are identified and as resources allow.
- Capital funding will not be allocated to complete works on FSRs solely for industrial purposes (current or future).

- The Engineering Program uses the following principles when allocating funds to manage and maintain a safe FSR network throughout the province:
 - Allocate funds based on priority
 - Allocate funds in an open and transparent manner
 - Allocate funds consistently—generally use the same criteria to make ranking decisions

Additional information can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/resource-roads>

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