

From: [Jody Hancock](#)
To: [Barbara Williams](#)
Cc: [Robert McGowan](#); [Lillian Yeung](#)
Subject: Fwd: Bridge out on Range Road 271
Date: Monday, September 9, 2024 2:19:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Email received related to Bridge File 00110 (RR271). This item is being presented to Council tomorrow.

Please share this with Jeff and rest of Council as deemed appropriate.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Kevin Linford <kbl@telus.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 9:02:34 PM
To: Jody Hancock <Jody.Hancock@parklandcounty.com>; Kristina Kowalski <kristina.kowalski@parklandcounty.com>; Phyllis Kobasiuk <Phyllis.Kobasiuk@parklandcounty.com>; Allan Gamble <allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com>; LacSteAnne.Parkland@assembly.ab.ca <LacSteAnne.Parkland@assembly.ab.ca>; Sally Kucher Johnson <sally.johnson@parklandcounty.com>
Subject: Re: Bridge out on Range Road 271

You don't often get email from kbl@telus.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Parkland County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize this sender and know the contents are safe.

Hello Everyone

with regards to the closure of the bridge on range road 271.

After reviewing the proposed plans, from the online proposal, I would hope that you all can see your way clear to picking option 2 that would allow for partial opening of the bridge and the road as soon as possible and give Parkland county infrastructure at its disposal to quickly react to other issues like this in the future by having a temporary bridge at its disposal.

Jody Hancock has told me that there is precedent already in place where another bridge in Parkland County had a temporary solution put in place to keep the bridge and the road open and I would ask that the same consideration be given to this situation.

Please consider that having the road completely closed into 2025 that I have concerns about timely road maintenance through the winter.

I'm also concerned with how much longer emergency services might take to respond to any issues at my home due to the road closure if there were ever any issues... how would Parkland county be liable in this situation?

I look forward to a speedy solution to this situation.

Kevin Linford
53322 Range Road 271 Spruce Grove AB.

On Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 9:26 AM Phyllis Kobasiuk <Phyllis.Kobasiuk@parklandcounty.com> wrote:

Good day Kevin

Appreciate your time documenting concerns around the RR271 bridge problems. Also note you have received an email from Engineering Director, Jody Hancock indicating he will be following up directly with you.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jody Hancock <Jody.Hancock@parklandcounty.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 8:16 AM

To: Kevin Linford <kbl@telus.net>; Phyllis Kobasiuk <Phyllis.Kobasiuk@parklandcounty.com>; Kristina Kowalski <kristina.kowalski@parklandcounty.com>; Allan Gamble <allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com>

Subject: RE: Bridge out on Range Road 271

Good morning Kevin,

I will reach out to you sometime this week as requested.

Jody Hancock, P. Eng. | Director Engineering Services | Parkland County |
53109A HWY 779, Parkland County, Alberta T7Z 1R1
Office: 780-968-8888 ext. 8441 | Cell: 780-499-3706 |
Jody.hancock@parklandcounty.com | www.parklandcounty.com



One Parkland: Powerfully Connected.

This communication is intended for use of the recipient to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential, personal and/or privileged information. Please contact me immediately if you are not the intended recipient of the communication and do not copy, distribute, or take action relying upon it. Any communication received in error, or subsequent reply, should be deleted or destroyed.

From: Kevin Linford <kbl@telus.net>

Sent: Monday, September 2, 2024 12:04 PM

To: Phyllis Kobasiuk <Phyllis.Kobasiuk@parklandcounty.com>; Kristina Kowalski <kristina.kowalski@parklandcounty.com>; Allan Gamble <allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com>; Jody Hancock <Jody.Hancock@parklandcounty.com>

Subject: Re: Bridge out on Range Road 271

You don't often get email from kbl@telus.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Parkland County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize this sender and know the contents are safe.

Hello Phyllis, Kristina, Jody and Allan

Thank you for your responses to my email back in July. I have had an entertaining front row seat to the ongoing circus of this bridge closure and escalation of the road barricades. It is obvious that there are more people upset with these bridge closures than me. There were often times that the barricades would be moved or upgraded and moved within hours. People are finding this closure very inconvenient and disruptive, as am I. And just for the record I have not and am not moving barricades.

One other thing to note, my fathers name is Bob (Robert) Linford, not Don. And since the September 10 council meeting is during working hours I will not be able to attend because I will be at work, Bob may be there if his schedule allows for it.

I have had no further updates on where things are at since my last email. I would appreciate one before the meeting on the 10th.

There has obviously been a fair amount of time and effort put into the barricading of the bridge. I would hope that there has been the same effort put into rectifying the bridge outage at this point.

I did have a response to my email from Michael Botros from the Alberta government as follow:

Good Morning Kevin:

Thank you for your July 26, 2024, email. On behalf of the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, I am able to provide the following information.

The bridge noted on Range Road 272 North of Township Road 532A going over Atim Creek is under the control and management of Parkland County. Under the *Municipal Government Act*, a municipality has the direction, control, and management of all roads, which includes bridge structures, within the municipality.

Parkland County can make a request for funding assistance under the Government of Alberta's Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP), and make a specific request under the Local Road Bridge Program. Funding allocations throughout

municipalities in Alberta are based on priority. Additional information on the STIP grant program can be found at [Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program \(STIP\) | Alberta.ca](#).

Please continue to communicate with Parkland County for more information on the status of the bridge and their plan for the structure.

Sincerely,

Michael Botros, P.Eng.

Regional Director
North Central Region
Transportation and Economic Corridors

O: (780) 305-2405

C: (780) 686-9659

Alberta-2018



So based on this, I would like to know if this funding was applied for prior to this year. If the bridge was in such bad shape that its inspection schedule was moved from a 5 year term to a yearly inspection, would that not constitute applying for that funding before you had to close the bridge as you have now and have no plan. Please let me know if this funding had been applied for before now and if it has been applied for at all?

Please also give me an update on any plans to get it open somehow. Jody had mentioned to me that there may be ways to get it open in a temporary fashion by setting up some sort of temporary crossing that would allow for at least single lane traffic to cross.

I've also spoken with a few farmers in the area that are concerned about the issues the bridge closure will cause with this year's harvest.

This bridge closure needs to be corrected as soon as possible.

Please update me on the situation and what measures have been started to correct this closure.

thank you

Kevin Linford

On Sat, Jul 27, 2024 at 11:04 AM Phyllis Kobasiuk <Phyllis.Kobasiuk@parklandcounty.com> wrote:

Good day Kevin

Thank you for taking time to share your concerns relating to road conditions and bridge repairs.

You are correct that this matter has been brought to the attention of Mayor Gamble and Parkland County. Last October 30 I did accept your father Don's request to tour Division 3 and area roads to take note of problem areas. Some issues in Division 2 were discussed with your Councillor.

Don provided me a written list of road projects that he believed were not up to standard. While Don was not able to join a senior management team meeting I arranged in follow up, the list was addressed item by item. So you are correct matters requiring repair were brought to attention of staff.

Council and administration met June 19 with MLAs Getson and Boitchenko to lobby for County projects. Inadequate bridge funding was discussed as a heavy burden put upon municipalities by the province. For decades our rural association has lobbied strongly this responsibility be resumed by Alberta Infrastructure .

To address your request to consider this bridge repair sooner, this email includes Jody Hancock. Mr. Hancock can advise Council and other members of administration of options to ensure safe access at the bridge location.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Kevin Linford <kbl@telus.net>

Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 11:16:58 PM

To: Kristina Kowalski <kristina.kowalski@parklandcounty.com>; Phyllis Kobasiuk

<Phyllis.Kobasiuk@parklandcounty.com>; Allan Gamble <allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com>;
LacSteAnne.Parkland@assembly.ab.ca <LacSteAnne.Parkland@assembly.ab.ca>; Sally Kucher
Johnson <sally.johnson@parklandcounty.com>; transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca
<transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca>

Cc: Jody Hancock <Jody.Hancock@parklandcounty.com>

Subject: Fwd: Bridge out on Range Road 271

You don't often get email from kbl@telus.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Parkland County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize this sender and know the contents are safe.

Dear Allan, Kristina, Phyllis, Sally, Shane, and Devin,

I am writing to express my deep disappointment regarding the recent closure and handling of the small bridge crossing Atim Creek on Range Road 271, north of Township Road 532A in Parkland County. The closure of this bridge by Alberta Transportation, following a failed inspection, has caused significant inconvenience to my family and me, as well as to many other residents and local workers who rely on this bridge daily.

As the first resident directly north of the bridge, this closure affects my property the most, but it also impacts many others in the community, including those living further north and those working at the local wildlife rehabilitation center and as well as county residents who frequently use the bridge for fishing and other activities.

For years, I have raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of this bridge with grader operators and other county employees. It was clear that maintenance was needed long ago, and the current situation reflects a failure to address these issues in a timely manner. The closure of this bridge has significantly increased the distance we must travel in the local area to reach our property, forcing us to navigate additional gravel roads that are often more mud than gravel. This not only increases our travel time but also causes significant wear and tear on our vehicles.

Closing the bridge without warning and without a clear plan for repairs is unacceptable. I have been informed that the repair timeline ranges from a minimum of six months to possibly three years. While I understand that repairs take time, it is frustrating to see the lack of urgency in addressing this critical issue.

My family has lived in this county for over 40 years, with eight of those years at our current location. My extended family, the Jespersen family, settled here more than a century ago and still are a large part of the local agriculture community. It is disheartening to witness once again, how road maintenance issues are often neglected until they reach a crisis point, leaving residents without options and yet seeing many tax dollars going toward other roads that clearly are not in that much need. (Campsite road north of 534 for example... I wish I had a road that nice to my home)

Allan, you did forward my original email on, thank you for that, but it wasn't till I went

into the county office that I started to get some answers when Jody did take the time to phone me back and answered my questions, I believe after hours, which was appreciated.

Kristina, I have been awaiting your call since leaving my contact information at the Parkland County building. I was looking for and would have appreciated an update on the status of this issue since you are my local county representative.

I have spoken with Jody Hanock in Engineering at the county, who revealed that there is currently no plan to repair the bridge. He is also frustrated with issues like this and feels that his hands are tied. He informed me that while the Alberta government provides funds to Parkland County for bridge repairs, according to him, the amount is insufficient to keep up with the number of bridges needing attention. I would like to see detailed information on the funding received for such repairs and a report on how these funds are allocated.

Jody mentioned that funding must be secured via council, as there is currently nothing in the county's budget to address this problem. I find it concerning that there is no contingency plan for such issues that should require action sooner rather than later and shouldn't have to wait for direction and funding considering they directly change the day to day use of the county roads. If an issue arose that affected your homes on a daily basis, you would undoubtedly find the funds to address them sooner rather than later.

An estimate of six months to begin repairs seems unrealistic, especially considering the approach of winter when work would likely be suspended. Having this bridge out for three weeks without any change or possible repair has been difficult enough, and I cannot fathom it being out for a year or more. I know that we don't live in a time where this bridge could be replaced in a matter of days, but it really could be that easy if it was deemed necessary, it's not that big of a bridge. A backhoe and large culvert would fix the issue and it wouldn't even need to be as elaborate as the one on Jennifer Heil Road north of Hwy 16 that was built in the same manner. Or at least a temporary slab of concrete and a couple loads of road crush would do temporarily until a larger plan could be figured out.

Phyllis, I know that this bridge's condition was brought to your attention during a ride-along with my father, Robert Linford, so its current state should not be a surprise.

Given these circumstances, I believe a discussion regarding a partial tax rebate is warranted. Despite another increase in taxes this year, I am receiving fewer services from the county due to the bridge closure, which has more than doubled my travel distance in the immediate area and increased wear on my vehicles. I am requesting that my tax burden be reconsidered in light of this situation.

Furthermore, I urge you to explore ways to expedite the repair process or implement temporary measures to reopen the bridge for use. We cannot afford to wait for the next council meeting to address this issue.

I would appreciate a prompt response from each of you, outlining the steps being taken to resolve this situation and any support you can offer in accelerating the repair process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Linford
Parkland County Resident
53322 Range Road 271, Spruce Grove, AB
780-720-1743

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Allan Gamble** <allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 12, 2024 at 4:08 PM
Subject: RE: Bridge out on Range Road 271
To: Kevin Linford <kbl@telus.net>
Cc: Dana Schlecker <Dana.Schlecker@parklandcounty.com>, Natalie Skalicky <natalie.skalicky@parklandcounty.com>

Hi Kevin, thank you your email outlining your concern with the bridge closure. I am forwarding to our administration for review and response to you with respect to the timeline of repair, have a great day,

Allan Gamble, CPA, CMA, ICD.D | Mayor | Parkland County | 53109A HWY
779, Parkland County, Alberta T7Z 1R1

Office: 780-968-8410 |
allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com | www.parklandcounty.com



One Parkland: Powerfully Connected.

This communication is intended for use of the recipient to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential, personal and/or privileged information. Please contact me immediately if you are not the intended recipient of the communication and do not copy, distribute, or take action relying upon it. Any communication received in error, or subsequent reply, should be deleted or destroyed.

From: Kevin Linford <kbl@telus.net>
Sent: Friday, July 12, 2024 10:33 AM
To: Allan Gamble <allan.gamble@parklandcounty.com>
Subject: Bridge out on Range Road 271

You don't often get email from kbl@telus.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Parkland County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize this sender and know the contents are safe.

Hello Allan

My name is Kevin Linford, I live on Range road 271 north of 532A just north of the Atim creek bridge that has just been declared 'closed' by Alberta transportation.

I'm guessing that the lack of 'anything happening' means that this bridge was closed without a real plan to quickly 'fix' it. I'm wondering if you can give me some more info on what is the plan for fixing it?

Having this bridge out is certainly an inconvenience for all of us that live in my place. It's going to cost me time and money and wear and tear on my vehicle to have to travel more gravel. I'm sure my taxes aren't going to be reduced to reimburse us.

Please let me know what the plan is and the timeline associated with it?

thanks

Kevin Linford

7807201743