

Strategic Investment Categories

Project Overview

Over the next 10 years, Manitoba will be recognized as a national transportation hub, linking east to west, north to south and enabling strong economic activity within and across our borders to: enhance transportation mobility and connectivity; ensure safety and reliability across the highway network; enable industry expansion that leverages Manitoba's diverse economy; and build climate resiliency.

Manitoba Infrastructure capital programs and plans include various types of projects:

- Highway infrastructure such as roads, bridges, culverts, traffic signals/signage
- Water related infrastructure such as drains, dams, bridges, culverts, low level crossings, and flood protection infrastructure (dikes, diversion and floodway channels and pump stations)
- Transportation general assets such as weigh scales and ferries
- Northern airports

Manitoba is committed to supporting economic growth while realizing the best value for money for Manitobans. Strategic investment categories provide the foundation for an infrastructure strategy and short-term infrastructure investment planning. Manitoba Infrastructure is proposing four strategic investment categories to consistently plan and prioritize projects based on what is important to Manitobans.

The four proposed strategic investment categories are:

Renewal

Projects that include replacement, major and minor treatments of existing infrastructure assets such as bridges, culverts, highways, dams, drains, northern airports, and ferries.

Economic Development

Projects that include investments in infrastructure that support economic growth.

Safety & Climate Resiliency

Projects to improve safety and to withstand the impact of changes to the climate over time including severe weather events.

Connectivity & Innovation

Projects that ensure Manitobans are connected to essential services and routes, and plan for future needs and emerging technology.

The goal of this project is to continue to plan and prioritize investments in Manitoba’s strategic capital infrastructure that support priorities important to Manitobans.

Engagement Overview

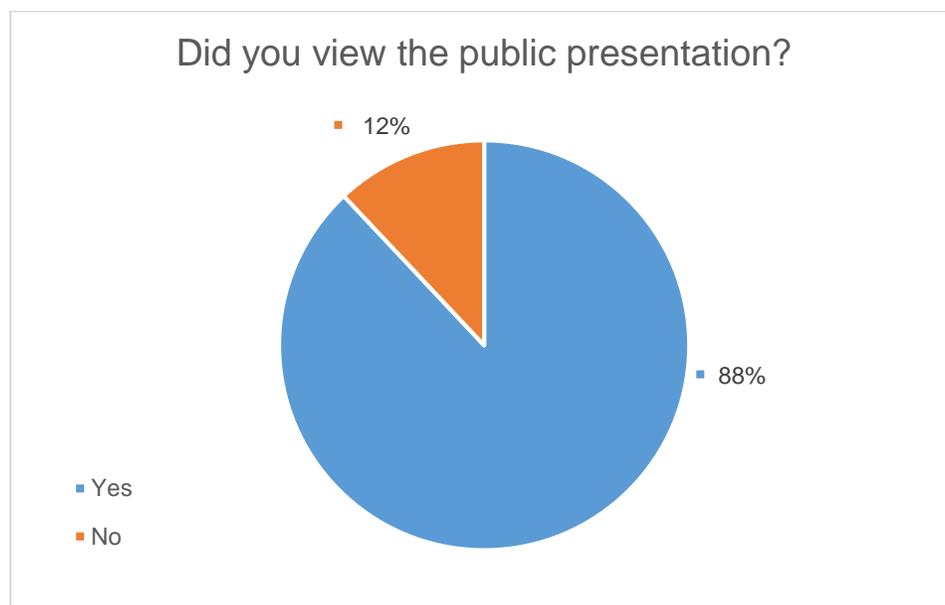
This engagement asked the public and industry stakeholders for feedback on the strategic investment categories.

The public was invited to review a presentation for Strategic Investment Categories on EngageMB and then complete a survey, which was open for feedback from July 15 to August 4, 2021. In addition to the July 15, 2021 news release, the engagement was advertised through local government websites and social media. The presentation outlined the proposed strategic investment categories and gave examples of projects in each proposed category. The survey invited feedback on the four proposed categories.

What We Heard

The EngageMB project site was visited by 1,861 people and the survey was completed by 1,553 people. Additionally, email responses were received from four stakeholder organizations: Manitoba Beef Producers, University of Winnipeg, Manitoba Association of Watersheds, and Southern Chiefs Organization.

A majority of survey respondents, 88 per cent, viewed the public presentation and 12 per cent did not view the presentation.

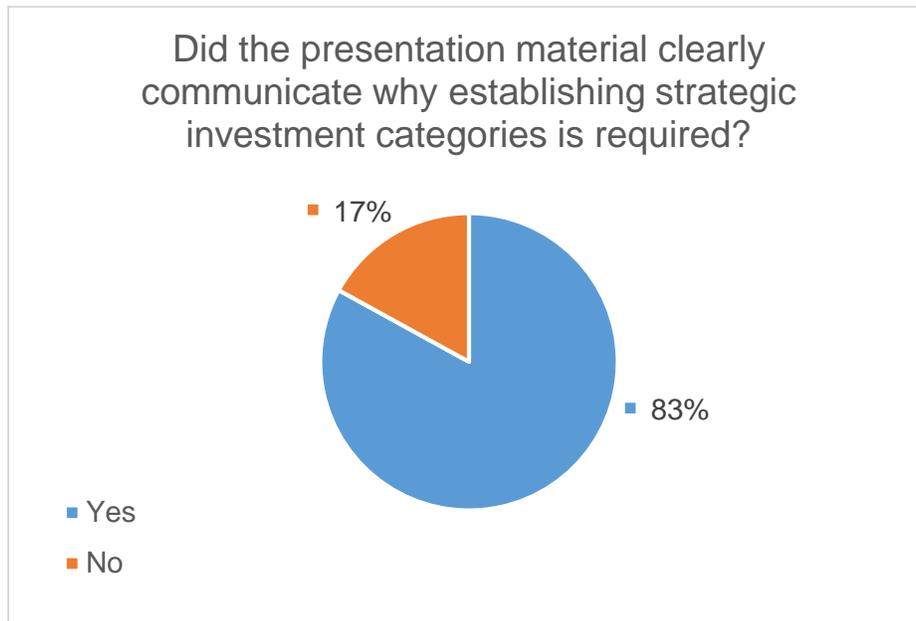


Some respondents who answered “no” provided further details on why they did not view the public presentation.

Many listed more than one reason, did not provide any feedback, or expressed specific thoughts on Manitoba Infrastructure's investment strategy. Key themes identified by these respondents were:

- Did not know there was a presentation
- No time
- Could not find the presentation
- Already have enough information without the presentation
- Not interested

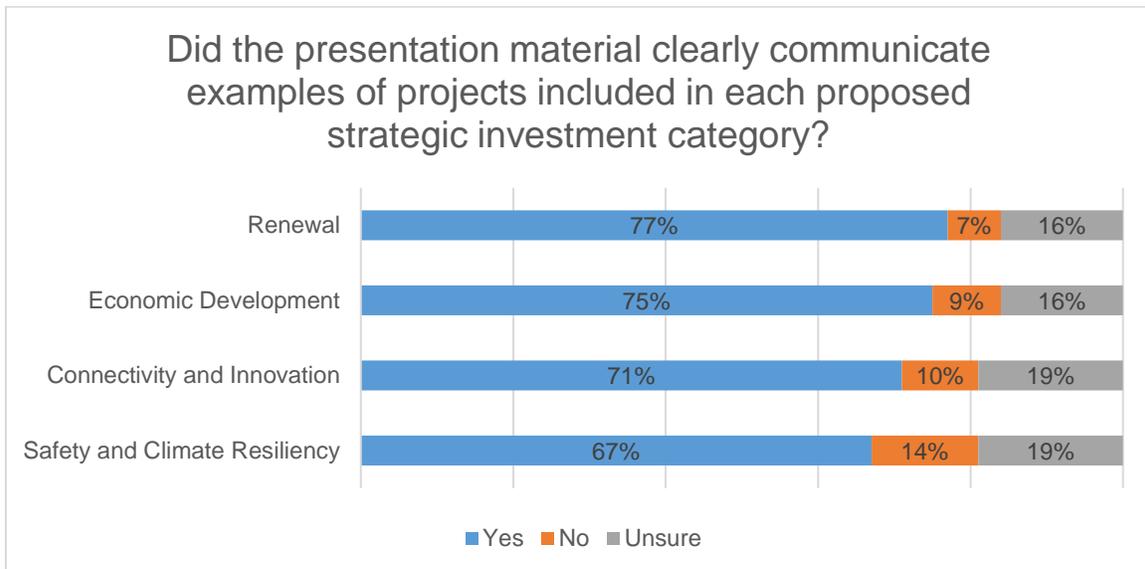
Among survey respondents, 83 per cent indicated that the presentation material clearly communicated why establishing strategic investment categories is required and 17 per cent did not find the materials clear.



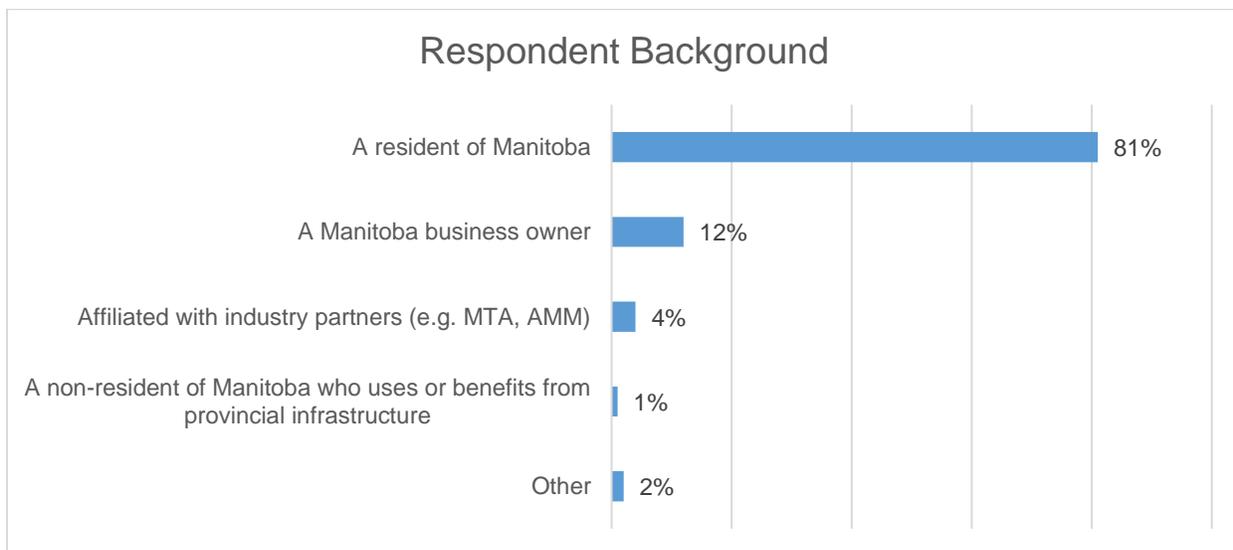
Some respondents who answered "no" provided further details on why they did not feel the materials were clear. Many listed more than one reason, did not provide any feedback, or suggested attaching the presentation to EngageMB emails soliciting feedback. Key themes identified by these respondents were:

- More detail needed
- Did not view/could not find presentation material
- Better explanation of 'why' needed
- Lacking explanation of how the proposed categories will be used
- Climate change strategy unclear

Respondents were asked about the clarity of project examples in each proposed strategic investment category: Renewal, Safety and Climate Resiliency, Economic Development, Connectivity and Innovation.



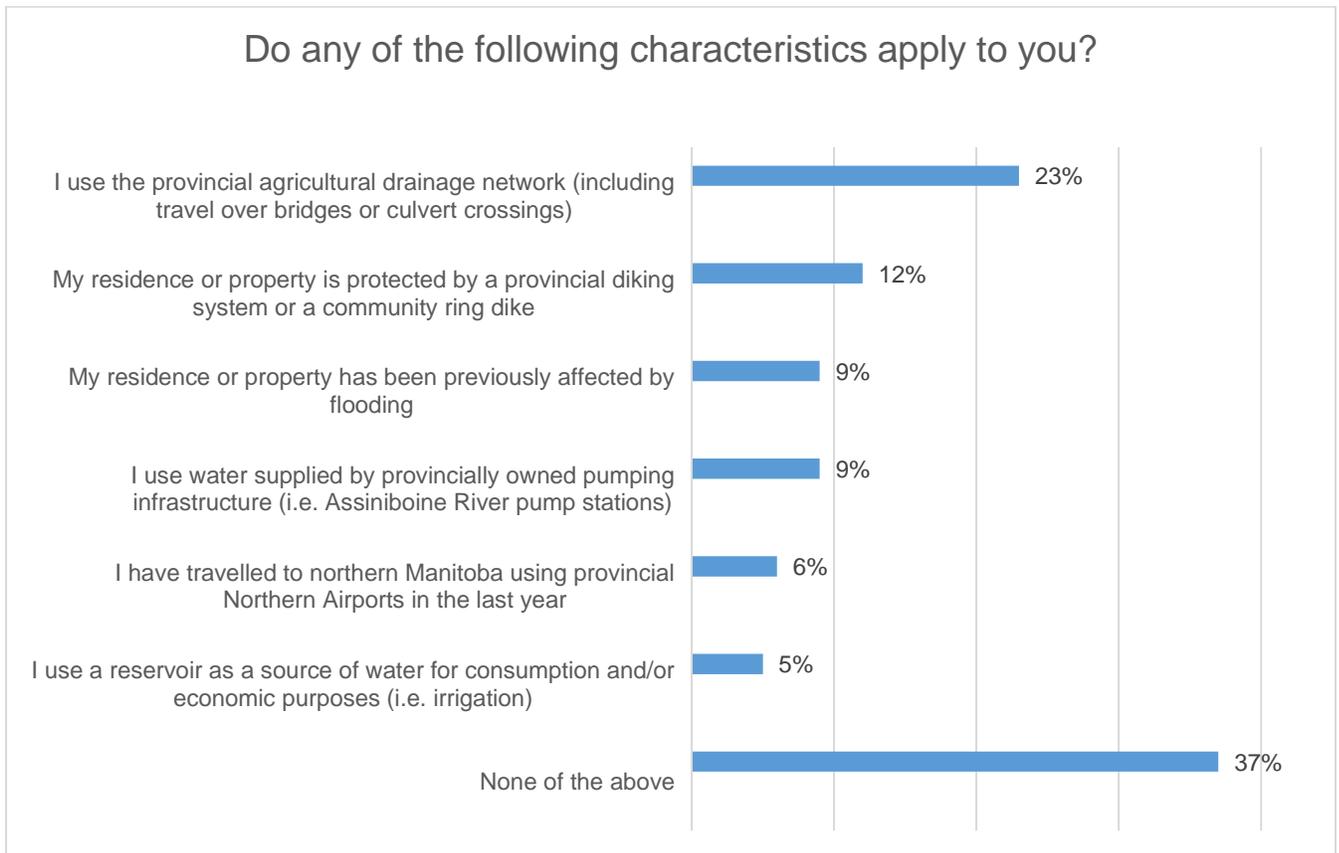
Respondents were asked to comment on their interest in Manitoba’s highway network. Respondents could select multiple answers.



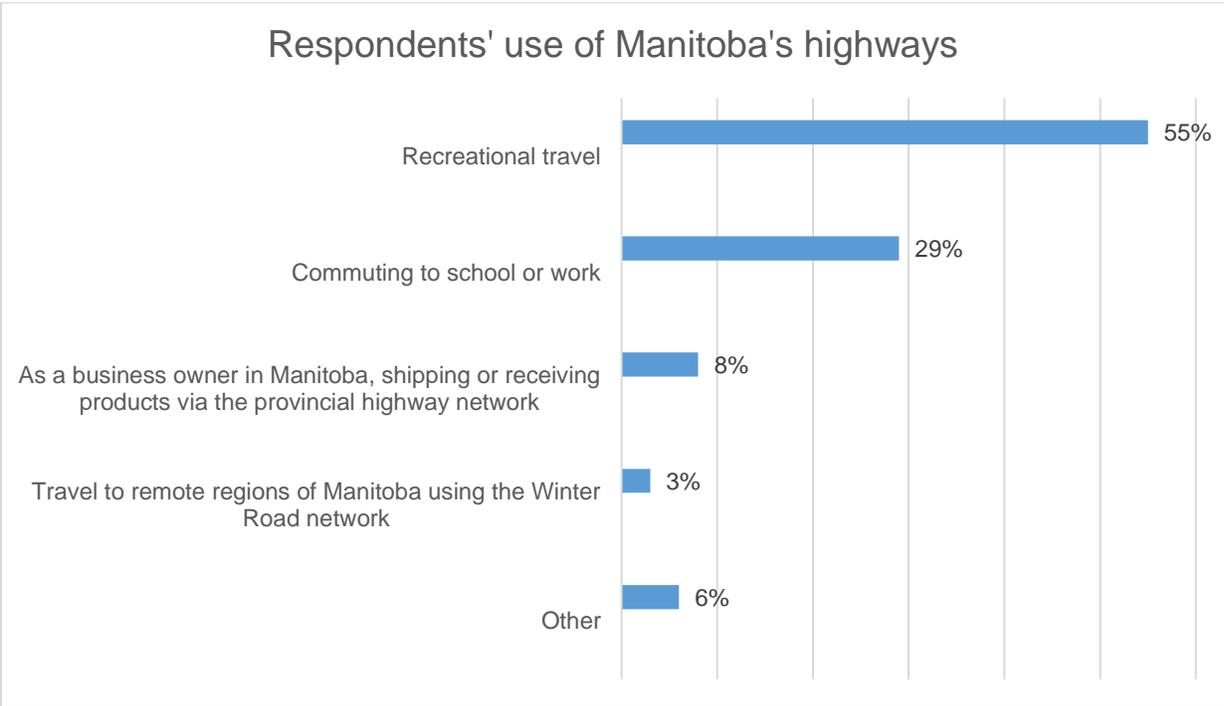
Respondents who indicated “other” were invited to specify their background. Responses included:

- Industry stakeholders
- Business owners
- Municipal/provincial government employees

Respondents were asked which of the following characteristics apply to them. Respondents were invited to select as many options as applied.



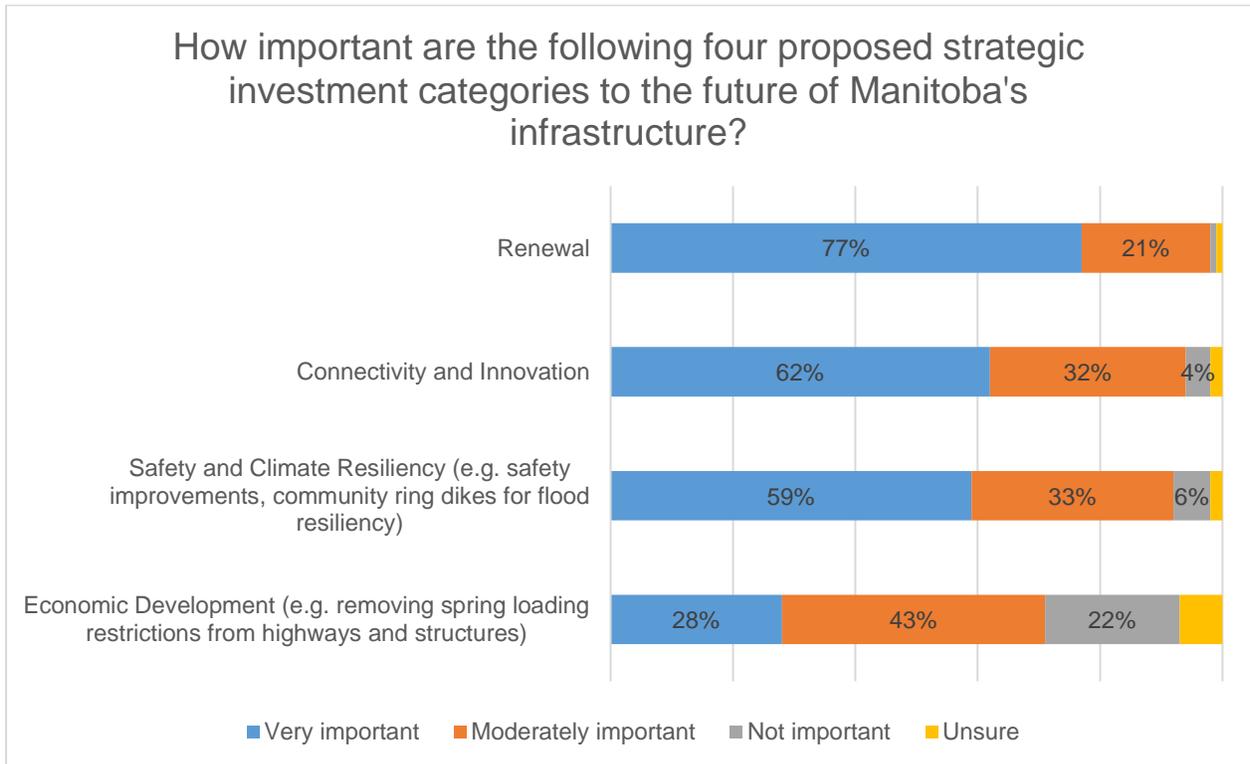
Respondents were also asked how they use the Manitoba highway network. Many respondents, 55 per cent, indicated that they use Manitoba’s highways for recreational travel, 29 per cent use Manitoba’s highways for commuting to school or work. Other responses indicated that participants use Manitoba’s highways for shipping or receiving products (8 per cent), and travel to remote regions of Manitoba using the Winter Road network (3 per cent). Respondents were invited to select as many options as applied.



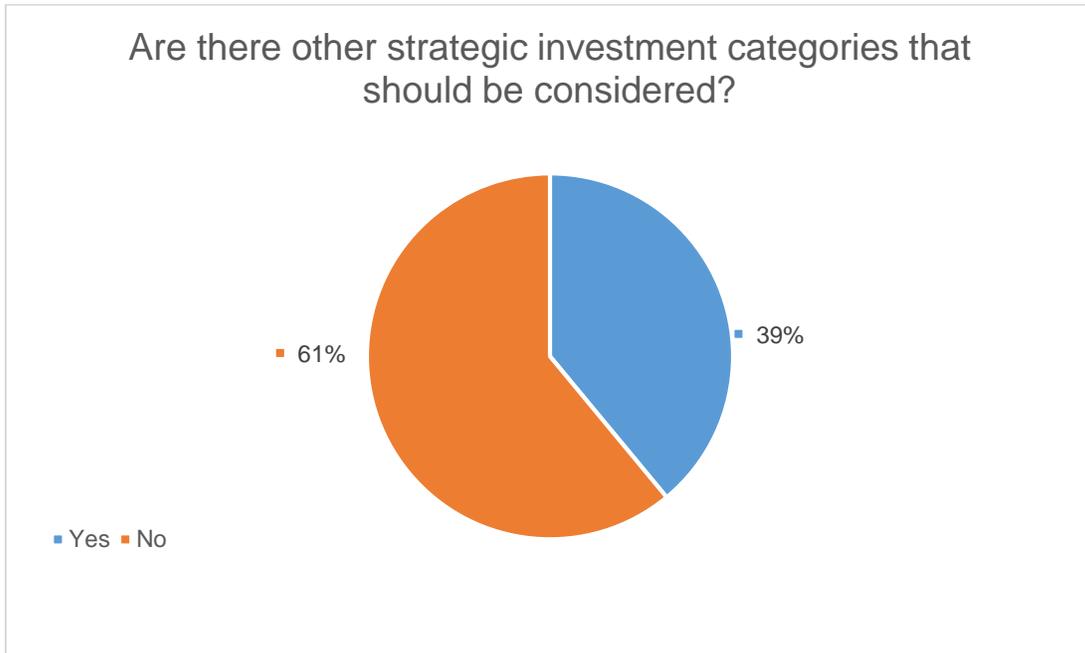
Respondents who indicated “other” were invited to specify their use of Manitoba’s highways. Responses included:

- Business travel
- Professional transportation/shipping (goods movement, supply chain management)
- Access to health services/medical care
- Access to town/city amenities from rural location (e.g. shopping, appointments)
- Personal travel (e.g. to cabin/second residence, visiting family)

Strategic investment categories provide the foundation for an infrastructure strategy and short-term infrastructure investment planning. Respondents were asked how important the four proposed strategic investment categories are for the future of Manitoba Infrastructure (e.g. provincial highway network, northern airports, dams, drains).



Respondents were asked if there are other strategic investment categories that should be considered.

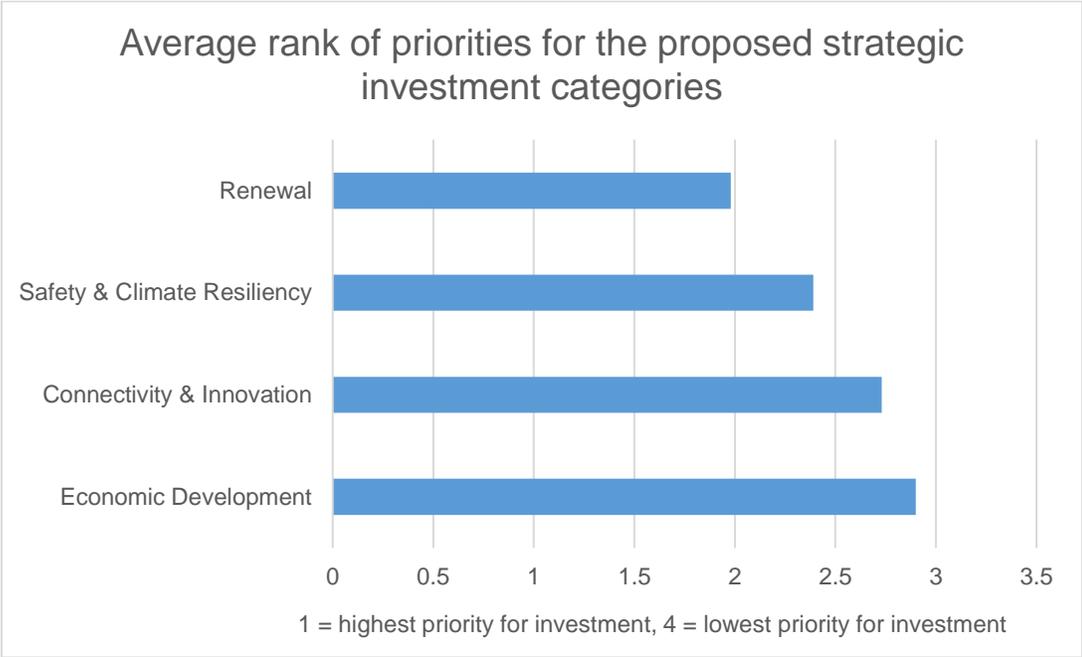


Respondents who indicated “yes” were invited to specify other strategic investment categories that should be considered. A total of 610 responses were received, including 606 through the engagement survey and four responses received from stakeholder organizations. Responses included:

- Public/mass transit
- Electric vehicle infrastructure
- Active transportation infrastructure
- Climate change mitigation/prevention
- Environment
- Fewer signalized intersections
- Telecommunications infrastructure (broadband, cell service)
- Upgrading the Perimeter Highway to a freeway
- Addressing concerns about specific highways
- Improved Indigenous involvement

Strategic investment categories are needed to ensure consistency in the planning and prioritization of projects and we want to learn what is most important to Manitobans. Respondents were asked to rank the proposed investment categories in order of priority. Results are expressed as average ranks.

- Renewal 1.98
- Safety & Climate Resiliency 2.39
- Connectivity & Innovation 2.73
- Economic Development 2.90



Respondents were also provided the opportunity to provide general comments and feedback. A total of 596 responses were received, many of which did not include any further feedback. Feedback was analyzed and grouped according to key themes that emerged, with many responses including more than one theme. Responses that were mentioned in 10 instances or fewer are not reported. Themes are in order from highest to lowest number of mentions.

Key Themes
Request to address an issue with specific highway/provincial infrastructure
Focus on renewal/fix the infrastructure we already have
Climate/environment
Other (including comments on non-provincial infrastructure, politics)
Comments regarding the survey (positive and negative)
Traffic flow (twinning, passing lanes, bypasses)
Freeway standard (interchanges, overpasses, fewer signals)
Be more proactive/forward thinking
Greater rural/remote focus needed
Public transportation/transit
Northern infrastructure/development
Economic development/business attraction
Sustainability/longer lasting infrastructure
Reduce emissions/improve alternate fuel options
Active transportation
More details needed
Electric vehicle infrastructure
Rail (including light rail)
Improved water stewardship/wetlands
Manitoba transportation hub(s) (including CentrePort)
Construction techniques/infrastructure quality
Less auto-centric planning
Budget/debt/return on investment (ROI)/comments on ranking or prioritizing projects
All-weather roads
General support of the identified categories

Next Steps

Moving forward, we will:

- Review public and industry stakeholder input
- Develop investment guidelines and project prioritization processes for each proposed investment category
- Consider the input received to develop an infrastructure strategy and short-term infrastructure investment planning

One change to the strategic investment categories based on public feedback has already gone forward. Recognizing both the importance of action to mitigate negative effects of climate change, and the integral nature of safety in all of Manitoba Infrastructure's asset classes, the category of Safety and Climate Resiliency has been renamed: Climate Resiliency. The revised strategic investment categories are:

- Renewal
- Economic Development
- Climate Resiliency
- Connectivity & Innovation

Questions?

Please contact cms-ipam@gov.mb.ca.