



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Capital Plan 101

A companion document

Last Modified November 2022



The Capital Plan

What is the University of Alberta Capital Plan?

The University of Alberta Capital Plan is a document developed by the U of A and legislated under the *Post Secondary Learning Act*. Its development is led by Facilities and Operations, with input and feedback from key stakeholders. The plan is informed by related information, such as direct engagement with colleges and faculties based on their academic/research planning objectives, Long Range Development Plans, space utilization data, facility condition data and analytics, deferred maintenance liability data and prioritization processes. This work aligns and works together to serve many needs, including:

- Ensuring accessible space for learners, faculty and staff
- Supporting utility needs of campuses
- Monitoring and maintaining assets
- Designing, renewing, building and removing capital assets
- Ensuring ancillary supports and services are available
- Maintaining legislated long-range development plans
- Working towards a more financially and environmentally sustainable footprint

The plan's purpose

The Capital Plan outlines the U of A's priority areas of capital needs for infrastructure and how they align with the Government of Alberta's strategic initiatives. The Capital Plan needs to demonstrate:

- Alignment with Government priorities and initiatives
- Alignment with Institutional priorities
- A clear and present need, as well as steps by the institution to invest its own resources
- Consistency of these large initiatives; submissions should reflect a long term strategy that shows the seriousness of the needs being brought up

U of A has many types of infrastructure projects happening across its five campuses. The Capital Plan only represents the projects that are requesting or received funding from the Government of Alberta. The Capital Plan may not reflect every capital initiative that the university pursues (occasional and alternate funding sources, such as donors, federal government funding and/or research grants).

Who is the plan for?

The primary audience for the Capital Plan is the Government of Alberta. The Capital Plan is reviewed, approved and submitted annually by the U of A's Board of Governors.

Why create a plan?

The U of A Capital Plan is legislated by the [Post Secondary Learning Act \(PSLA\)](#).

Applicable PSLA Sections

1. Section 78(7): The board of a public post-secondary institution must prepare and approve a capital plan, which must be submitted to the Minister on or before the date specified by the Minister.
2. Section 78(8)b: The preparation and approval by the board of a budget... and of a capital plan... and the submission of the budget and the capital plan to the Minister.

Institutional Priorities and Space Planning

Facilities and Operations, in collaboration across the University of Alberta, develops the Capital Plan to tie together institutional priorities, College needs and emergent priorities, research excellence requirements and asset management planning to best serve the institution's strategic plans, vision and mission.

The list of major capital projects is developed by a large team of subject matter experts from across Facilities and Operations. Consultation in the development of the list of major capital projects is a focus for 2022/23 and into the future. Analytics that are a key component of the decision-making include the assessment of assets from Facility Condition Index reports, deferred maintenance costs for infrastructure life-cycle renewal, operating and utility costs and climate impact (GHG's, carbon footprint, etc). Alignment with institutional strategic plans, viability, best-practise principles and processes and order of magnitude level estimates and scoping factor into the list.

In Fall 2022/23, an executive level Capital Plan Advisory Committee kicked off to offer strategic infrastructure advice, input and feedback for the Capital Plan. The Provost's Office, Research and Innovation, University Services and Finance, Facilities and Operations, and the Colleges are all represented in the Capital Plan Advisory Committee membership.

Alberta's Priorities for Infrastructure Delivery

Under Bill 73, *the Infrastructure Accountability Act* (introduced on October 25, 2021), the Government of Alberta provided insight into the six criteria they plan to use to evaluate whether a capital project will be granted funding once Bill 73 is passed. As Bill 73 is relevant to [BLIMS](#), Capital Projects and [CMR](#), it is important to consider the Government of Alberta's potential evaluation criteria for funding infrastructure projects.

The six criteria proposed in Bill 73 factor how a potential project will:

- address health, safety and compliance needs
- align with government priorities and strategies
- foster economic activity and create jobs
- improve program delivery and services
- consider life-cycle costs and whether it will generate a return on investment
- enhance the resiliency of communities

Glossary

BLIMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building and Land Information Management System (BLIMS) is a database for all Provincial Government infrastructure and land assets. This is also the name of the program that allows Post Secondary Institutions to create a list of high priority projects that otherwise would not receive funding through any other Government supported programs.
CMR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Maintenance & Renewal Fund (CMR) funding replaces the <i>Infrastructure Maintenance Program (IMP)</i> as the Government of Alberta's annual grant to address institutional deferred maintenance. The program is administered by Treasury Board & Finance and reviewed by Alberta Infrastructure as well as Advanced Education to ensure compliance. The IMP guidelines are still utilized in this program thus limiting how these funds can be used.
IAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated Asset Management Strategy is a strategy that includes a Capital Plan. IAMS sets the direction for the University of Alberta's infrastructure assets, while defining a long term roadmap. It describes the current state and the conditions that created some of the challenges currently being faced, while also identifying the future direction and actions to be taken.
USP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The University Strategic Plan is currently being redeveloped and reimaged to reflect the current mission and vision such as how the University of Alberta can lead with purpose and how we best focus our attention and resources toward shared goals. The university strategic plan guides our work to advance teaching, research and community engagement in the coming years.
SOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space Optimization Strategy focuses on two aspirational goals to reduce the institution's footprint by 15% and become more financially and environmentally sustainable. Three actionable goals include updating space and facility governance systems, updating space policies and updating space standards and guidelines. It is inextricably tied to IAMS and to upholding the institution's strategic plans for excellence in teaching, learning and research. Two committees are in place to oversee this work: the Facilities Optimization Oversight Committee (FOOC) and the Facilities Optimization Implementation Team (FOIC).

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