



Briefing Note B – Province of Riverbend (Transportation)

Confidential

Month: October 2025

You manage a portfolio of aging structures, and **Kettle Creek Bridge** is high on your risk list. Spring breakup exposed fresh spalling, and your district manager warns that if replacement doesn't begin in the coming construction season, you'll need **weight restrictions by midsummer 2026**. That means **90-kilometre detours** for farm trucks and longer ambulance response times—outcomes your minister wants to avoid in two sensitive ridings.

The project is scoped at **\$60 million**. A reputable bridge crew is finishing nearby, but their industrial contract starts mid-2026; they could return to Kettle Creek after that job, putting your schedule on a more realistic arc. Your engineers flag long-lead steel and environmental windows: forcing a 2026 finish compresses procurement and invites rework. They advise targeting **substantial completion by October 31, 2027**—a timetable that fits supply, staging, and river conditions without risking mid-stream design changes.

Your capital plan is already stretched by flood repairs. Covering half the cost would mean cancelling two resurfacing contracts with political fallout. You therefore need a **larger-than-half federal cost-share** to keep the rest of your program intact, and **timeline flexibility into 2027** to reduce execution risk. You sense Ottawa is chasing a 2026 ribbon-cut to meet fiscal optics. Your case is that public safety and continuity for rural communities are better served by a stronger federal contribution and a **2027** finish that delivers quality and reliability.

Ottawa has hinted there's another project competing for funds. You take that seriously, but the cost of delay for your residents is tangible. Your team has prepared sequencing that shows why **2027** is responsible, not slow-walking. You'll meet the federal team **this October 2025** to press for a **higher cost-share** and a **2027 completion**, so the work is done once and done right.