

# Two years after promise, province to finally rebuild of one of Ontario's worst roads

By [Glenn Hendry](#) Published March 19, 2026

The Ontario government is funding the rehabilitation of County Road 49 between Picton and the Bay of Quinte Skyway Bridge in Prince Edward County – consistently ranked as one of the worst roads in the province – finally fulfilling a promise made more than two years ago.

The project will include repaving an 18.4 km stretch of the road surface, new culverts and guiderail improvements, supporting the safe movement of people and goods and “keeping thousands of workers on the job in southeastern Ontario,” said Ontario Transportation Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria.

“Rehabilitating County Road 49 will improve a key gateway into Prince Edward County, support good-paying jobs during construction and make it easier for visitors to access one of Ontario’s top tourism destinations.”

Last year, County Road 49 was ranked the third-worst road in Ontario in a CAA survey. Repairs to the road will support tourism and the local economy, as it serves as an important link to the region’s wineries, restaurants, theatres and other tourist destinations. It also helps connect residents to jobs, health care, housing and other essential services.

“We are finally able to undertake this long overdue once-in-a-generation infrastructure project,” said Prince Edward County Mayor Steve Ferguson, who thanked the province for the funding. “County Road 49 is a vital lifeline in our community, key for our long-term economic growth and well-being. On behalf of county council, residents, businesses, and visitors to Prince Edward County, I thank the government of Ontario for helping us move forward.”

After years of pleas to the province, Queen’s Park announced in early 2024 it would provide \$20 million from the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Fund to support the estimated \$52 million price tag to rehabilitate County Road 49.

Ferguson said in 2023 that “enough is enough” and called on the province to step and help the county fix the road. “The deterioration of this critical road has gone on for too long,” he said. “People want it fixed.”

Ontario completed major upgrades to the Bay of Quinte Skyway bridge, which connects Highway 401 to Prince Edward County in 2024, and provided \$2 million in funding to the county to rebuild Main Street in Picton last year.

Prince Edward County is contributing \$7.8 million from their capital budget to help rehabilitate County Road 49.

“Improving County Road 49 is an important step in supporting the growing number of people who travel to and through Prince Edward County each year,” said Quinte MPP Tyler Allsop. “Our government’s investment in this rehabilitation project reflects our ongoing commitment to maintain strong, dependable roads across the region.”

If the annual Ontario Worst Roads rankings had an ‘honour’ roll, County Road 49 would surely be on it.

The stretch of roadway connecting Picton, the county’s largest community, with the Quinte Skyway bridge earned the dubious number one spot in the list produced by the CAA in 2016 and has been a consistent top five member in the years since, placing third in the province in 2023 and 2025 and fourth in 2021, 2022 and 2024.

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, a technical partner for the CAA’s annual Worst Roads Campaign, understands the impacts roads like County Road 49 have on residents and businesses. “The challenges associated with deteriorating infrastructure are real and well understood, and the rehabilitation of County Road 49 is both welcome and necessary,” said executive director Nadia Todorova.

Opened in 1966, the road was downloaded to the county in 1998, with the county spending about \$200,000 a year on maintenance. About 6,000 vehicles a day use the road and “severe joint and slab failures” have been identified as the road reaches the end of its natural lifespan.

Some 2,000 housing units planned for the east side of Picton will need the rehabilitation project to be completed to move forward.

“Rehabilitating County Road 49 is an important investment in critical core infrastructure in Prince Edward County,” said Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association Executive Director Patrick McManus. “Our industry appreciates the province’s responsiveness in addressing an issue that residents and road users have consistently raised as a priority. Project investments like this help improve road safety, support local jobs, and ensure the province’s transportation network continues to move people and goods efficiently. It’s a great investment that will have a positive long-term impact for the region.”

The province is investing \$30 billion to build, repair and expand highways, roads and bridges, tackling gridlock, shortening travel times and driving economic growth across Ontario. This includes multi-million-dollar investments in Prince Edward County and a recently announced roundabout at Highway 62 and County Road 1, with Stantec Consulting awarded the detail design contract.