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NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

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Councillor Paul Ainslie Welcomes Federal Government's High-Speed Rail Announcement

Toronto, ON, -Today, Councillor Paul Ainslie welcomes the federal government's announcement of the "Alto" high-speed rail project, connecting Toronto to Quebec City. The project, unveiled by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on February 19, 2025, promises to revolutionize travel within the Quebec-Toronto corridor.

"This is a monumental step forward for Canadian infrastructure and sustainable transportation," said Councillor Ainslie. "The project, with its 1,000-kilometer electric rail network and speeds of up to 300 kilometers per hour, will significantly reduce travel times and boost economic and cultural connectivity between our major cities."

Councillor Ainslie has been a vocal advocate for high-speed rail, having previously passed a motion at City Council to support City of Montreal's calling for a high-speed train in the Quebec-Toronto corridor, rather than a high-frequency train. This motion, which was also supported by Oshawa City Council, emphasized the importance of high-speed rail in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing a viable alternative to air and automobile travel.

"The decision to pursue high-speed rail aligns perfectly with the vision we championed," Councillor Ainslie stated. "A true high-speed system, capable of reducing travel time between Montreal and Toronto to approximately three hours, will offer real competition and encourage a shift towards sustainable transportation."

Beyond the Quebec-Toronto corridor, Councillor Ainslie has also recently passed a motion at City Council to support high-speed rail between Toronto and New York City. He expressed his hope that the "Alto" project will serve as a catalyst for future high-speed rail initiatives across North America.

"The 'Alto' project is a significant milestone, and I am confident that it will pave the way for further expansion of high-speed rail in Canada and beyond," Councillor Ainslie concluded. "Imagine the possibilities of connecting Toronto to major cities in the United States, further enhancing our economic and cultural ties."

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