



June 24, 2026

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon  
Minister of Transport  
Government of Canada

Dear Minister MacKinnon,

We are writing on behalf of a coalition of Southwestern Ontario municipal leaders to request a meeting regarding the development of International High Performance Rail connecting Toronto, Southwestern Ontario, Windsor, Detroit, and the broader Great Lakes region.

As you may be aware, municipal leaders from across the Toronto-Windsor corridor recently joined partners from Ontario and Michigan to advance a shared vision for enhanced passenger rail service and cross-border connectivity. Together, we are advocating for federal support to improve rail infrastructure, advance the Detroit-Windsor passenger rail connection, and establish a clear delivery plan for enhanced passenger rail service throughout Southwestern Ontario.

We believe this project represents a significant nation-building opportunity that can deliver meaningful benefits for Canadians in the near term. Investments in high performance rail would improve mobility for residents, reduce congestion on Highway 401 and other key transportation corridors, lower greenhouse gas emissions, improve transportation safety, and provide a reliable alternative to automobile travel. It would also strengthen connections between communities throughout Southwestern Ontario while supporting future population and economic growth.

Importantly, this initiative complements and reinforces the Government of Canada's investments in passenger rail, including ALTO. By connecting Southwestern Ontario to the future Quebec City-Toronto high-speed rail network while restoring seamless rail connectivity through Windsor and Detroit, this project would help maximize the benefits of federal rail investments and strengthen Canada's broader transportation network.

Unlike entirely new greenfield rail corridors, many of the improvements required to achieve high performance rail service in Southwestern Ontario can be advanced within existing



transportation corridors, allowing benefits to be realized more quickly while supporting longer-term national rail objectives.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the coalition's specific recommendations and explore how municipalities can work collaboratively with the Government of Canada to advance this important project. We would be pleased to meet in Ottawa or Toronto at a time convenient for your schedule. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference in Ottawa from August 16–19 presents one potential opportunity for an in-person discussion. We would also be happy to accommodate a virtual meeting.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Drew Dilkens, City of Windsor  
Mayor Darrin Canniff, Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
Mayor Josh Morgan, City of London  
Mayor Jerry Acchione, City of Woodstock  
Mayor Kevin Davis, City of Brantford  
Mayor Berry Vrbancovic, City of Kitchener  
Mayor Dorothy McCabe, City of Waterloo  
Mayor Cam Guthrie, City of Guelph  
Mayor Andrea Horwath, City of Hamilton  
Mayor Marianne Meed Ward, City of Burlington  
Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville  
Mayor Olivia Chow, City of Toronto  
Deputy Mayor, Paul Ainslie, City of Toronto

cc: Peter Fragiskatos, Member of Parliament, London North Centre  
Arielle Kayabaga, Member of Parliament, London West  
Tim Louis, Member of Parliament, Kitchener-Conestoga  
Bardish Chagger, Member of Parliament, Waterloo  
Dominique O'Rourke, Member of Parliament, Guelph  
John Paul-Danko, Member of Parliament, Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas  
Aslam Rana, Member of Parliament, Hamilton Centre



Lisa Hepfner, Member of Parliament, Hamilton Mountain

Karina Gould, Member of Parliament, Burlington

Adam van Koeverden, Member of Parliament, Burlington North-Milton West

Sima Acan, Member of Parliament, Oakville West

Anita Anand, Member of Parliament, Oakville East