



June 24, 2026

The Honourable Evan Solomon  
Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation  
Government of Canada

Dear Minister Solomon,

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

Municipal leaders from Ontario and partners from Michigan recently came together to advance a shared vision for enhanced passenger rail service throughout this corridor. We believe this initiative represents a strategic nation-building project that can strengthen Canada's innovation economy, improve labour mobility, and deepen economic relationships across one of North America's most important technology, research, and advanced manufacturing regions.

Michigan partners have expressed significant interest in strengthening connections to Ontario's growing technology, artificial intelligence, and research ecosystems. Enhanced rail connectivity would better link Toronto's innovation economy with Southwestern Ontario's universities, research institutions, advanced manufacturing clusters, and emerging technology sectors, while also connecting these assets to Detroit, Ann Arbor, and the broader Michigan innovation corridor.

Few regions in North America possess the concentration of talent, research capacity, advanced manufacturing expertise, and AI-driven economic activity found along the Toronto-Windsor-Detroit corridor. Improved rail connectivity would help accelerate collaboration between businesses, researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, students, and workers on both sides of the border, supporting commercialization, investment attraction, and economic growth.

This project also complements the Government of Canada's broader nation-building transportation investments. While ALTO will transform connectivity between Quebec City and Toronto, International High Performance Rail can be advanced more quickly through



targeted investments in existing corridors while creating stronger links between ALTO and Canada's gateway to the U.S. Midwest. Together, these investments would establish a more integrated innovation and talent corridor spanning Canada and the Great Lakes region.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the coalition's recommendations and the economic development opportunities associated with this 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 may provide an opportunity for an in-person discussion, although we would also be happy to accommodate a virtual meeting.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to speaking 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 Vrbanovic, 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