

Ministry of
Transportation

Office of the Minister

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Ministère des
Transports

Bureau de la ministre

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COUNTY OF OXFORD
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MAY 08 2018

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M2017-4705

Mr. David Mayberry
Warden
Oxford County
21 Reeve Street
Woodstock ON N4S 7Y3

REFER TO _____
File/ EDMS: _____

Dear Warden Mayberry:

Thank you for your letters to Premier Wynne and I regarding high speed rail. It was also good to meet with you at the 2018 ROMA AGM and Annual Conference. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Premier announced in May 2017 that we would be proceeding with the planning and environmental assessment work for a high speed rail service between Toronto and Windsor with seven station stops including Union Station, Malton (Pearson), Guelph, Kitchener, London, Chatham and Windsor. This announcement was based on the Special Advisor's Report recommendations.

On this basis, we are advancing the first step in the process, an Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference for the portion of the corridor between Kitchener-Waterloo and London for a high speed rail service.

The Terms of Reference will provide a framework for the subsequent planning, design, and environmental assessment study which will look at how aspects of the project could affect the environment, including defining a route and stations. The environmental assessment process includes consultation opportunities for the public and a wide range of stakeholders including rural communities and the agricultural industry.

The development of high speed rail will include optimizing connections with GO, VIA Rail, and local and intercity transit. We will be working closely with area municipalities and rail and transit service providers to do this.

We are also creating a High Speed Rail Planning Advisory Board. The board will provide strategic advice to the province and support the development of the program. David Collenette has been appointed as chair. We thank you for your suggestion of including an agricultural industry representative and we have made it a top priority to do this.

My staff have also committed to meeting regularly with the municipalities of Zorra, East-Zorra, Thames Centre and Wilmot as work on other aspects of the high speed rail program advances because it is critical to our success. They will also invite Oxford County, Middlesex County and Waterloo Region to participate.

The ministry is committed to an integrated and efficient transportation system. I recognize that there is a need for long-range planning in each region of our province and this work could include examining improvements that connect smaller communities to each other and to larger urban centres. High Performance Rail could be included in our future long-range planning efforts.

In addition to the investments being made in advancing high speed rail, the province remains committed to continue making strategic infrastructure investments in public transit that help keep the economy strong, manage congestion, and provide passengers with a competitive alternative to private cars. Since 2003, Ontario has invested more than \$25.5 billion in public transit in Ontario, including more than \$12.3 billion in GO Transit. The province is committed to improving infrastructure across Ontario, including roads, highways and bridges.

To ensure Ontario remains a competitive and attractive place to live, work and invest, the province will continue to build the next generation of transportation infrastructure. The government is working towards its goal of providing a world-class transit and transportation system that will improve the competitiveness of Ontario's communities, enhance productivity, promote innovation and develop new economic opportunities.

If you require additional information about the high speed rail program, please contact Jennifer Graham Harkness, Executive Director, High Speed Rail. She can be reached at Jennifer.Grahamharkness@ontario.ca, or 416-212-3444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn McGarry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" and the last name "McGarry" clearly legible.

Kathryn McGarry
Minister

- c. The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environmental and Climate Change