

February 19, 2025

Martin Imbleau  
President and CEO  
Alto High Frequency Rail  
[communications@hfr-tgf.ca](mailto:communications@hfr-tgf.ca)

**Re: Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Concerns Re: Alto High Speed Rail Network  
Project Cutting Through Eastern Ontario**

Dear Martin Imbleau, President and CEO, Alto:

On behalf of the [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#) (EOWC) and our 103 member municipalities, we are writing to raise our concerns on the [Prime Minister's announcement](#) today regarding the Alto high-speed rail network development plan between Toronto and Quebec City.

While the EOWC supports transportation expansion across rural and small-urban communities as a long-standing priority, if built, this project will cut through our region's communities without bringing benefits to local businesses, trail systems, tourist destinations, or our 800,000+ residents.

The EOWC region is about the same geographical size as the province of Nova Scotia (approximately 50,000 square kilometres). Although we recognize that a stop is planned in Peterborough, overall, the train network will still have little to no benefit for the region as a whole.

The EOWC is urging that additional train stop(s) be included across Eastern Ontario as part of the Alto high-speed rail system. Additional stop(s) will improve transit across our rural and small-urban communities as well as strengthen regional connections. However, we have long-standing concerns about the impact of the proposed rail route on the integrity of our recreational trail network as an economic driver, central activity, and transit network for our residents and tourists.

In April of 2023, the EOWC formally responded as a region to the VIA High Frequency Rail municipal consultations voicing these concerns, and has since held meetings with staff around the impacts across our communities. Moving forward, the EOWC would like to work together with Alto high-speed rail, across government, and sectors to encourage additional stop(s) and find a path forward to ensure that this project will bring economic and social benefits to our region, its communities, business and our residents.

**About the EOWC**

The EOWC represents nearly one quarter of the municipalities across Ontario, 103 to be exact. Our Board of Directors is comprised of the 13 counties and single-tier municipal governments across Eastern Ontario. We represent the geographical area between the City of Kawartha Lakes to the Quebec border, spanning nearly 50,000 square kilometres, and advocate for the needs of over 800,000 residents.

\*\*\*

Our municipal elected officials look forward to opportunities to collaborate to strengthen our region's transportation network, communities and local economies. The EOWC is committed to working with all federal and provincial government leaders, as well as private sector partners to ensure Eastern Ontario remains a vibrant, competitive and sustainable region.

We welcome your response and the opportunity to discuss our priorities and explore ways we can collaborate for the benefit of our communities.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Clark,  
Chair, 2025  
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus  
[info@eowc.org](mailto:info@eowc.org)

CC:

The Rt Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
[PM@pm.gc.ca](mailto:PM@pm.gc.ca)  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

The Hon. Anita Anand  
Minister of Transport and Internal Trade  
[Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Anita.Anand@parl.gc.ca)

Members of Parliament for the EOWC region

Rebecca Bligh  
President  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
[president@fcm.ca](mailto:president@fcm.ca)

Robin Jones  
President  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
[amopresident@amo.on.ca](mailto:amopresident@amo.on.ca)

Christa Lowry  
Chair

Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
[romachair@roma.on.ca](mailto:romachair@roma.on.ca)

Jeff Leal  
Chair  
Eastern Ontario Leadership Council  
[JLeal@peterborough.ca](mailto:JLeal@peterborough.ca)

John Beddows  
Chair  
Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus  
[jbeddows@gananoque.ca](mailto:jbeddows@gananoque.ca)

Meredith Staveley-Watson  
Director of Government Relations and Policy, EOWC  
[meredith.staveley-watson@eowc.org](mailto:meredith.staveley-watson@eowc.org)  
Cell: 647-545-8324

Alexis Doyle  
Senior Advisor, Local Government and Community Partnerships – Ontario  
Alto High Frequency Rail  
[alexis.doyle@hfr-tgf.ca](mailto:alexis.doyle@hfr-tgf.ca)

## **EOWC Statement:**

# **High-Speed Rail Cutting Through Eastern Ontario**

“On behalf of Eastern Ontario’s 103 municipalities, the EOWC remains concerned with the Prime Minister’s announcement today regarding the high-speed rail network development plan between Toronto and Québec City.

While we support transit expansion in principle, this project will cut through our region’s communities without bringing benefits to local business, trail systems, or residents.

The EOWC will continue to advocate for additional train stop(s) in Eastern Ontario as part of the Alto high-speed rail system to boost local economies, improve access to transit for rural communities, and strengthen regional connections, while ensuring that we retain the integrity of our recreational trail network as an economic driver.”

**– EOWC Chair, Bonnie Clark (Warden of Peterborough County)**