



June 22, 2021

The Honourable Stan Cho  
Associate Minister of Transportation  
College Park 5th Flr  
777 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

*Sent electronically*

Dear Minister Cho,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Associate Minister of Transportation.

As you may know, the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is a unique alliance of key labour and management stakeholders derived from the residential and civil construction sectors. A primary RCCAO focus since our inception has been the importance of investing in core public works – from transit and water systems to roads and bridges –and doing so smartly and efficiently for taxpayers and daily users of infrastructure.

RCCAO commissions independent research into the issues facing not only our industry, but Ontario society. We have commissioned 58 reports to date, which seek evidence-based solutions on infrastructure topics such as [improving parking regulations](#), [modernizing the municipal class environmental assessment process](#), and [responsibly managing excess construction soil](#).

Over the last few months, we also worked extensively to ensure that municipalities across Ontario received financial assistance to help them deal with budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic and prevent them from delaying or cancelling necessary state-of-good repair projects. We commend the Government of Ontario's efforts and partnership with the Government of Canada on the Safe Restart Agreement in 2020 as well as the additional provincial funding in 2021 that was made available to municipalities to help them address the pandemic related budget shortfalls.

RCCAO is pleased with Ministry of Transportation's continued progress on the four major transit projects in the region and the transit-oriented communities work accompanying them. The significant highway expansion and bridge rehabilitation work that was included in the March provincial budget was also very welcomed by our alliance members.

Infrastructure, including transit and transportation, plays a central role in every aspect of life in Ontario. It is a crucial component for productivity, growth and competitiveness. As



Ontario looks towards a post-pandemic world and recovering from the financial impacts of COVID-19, investing in infrastructure will be one of the best ways to help get Ontario firing on all cylinders once again. In addition to the social benefits of infrastructure and the creation of a hard asset at the end of construction, each dollar of infrastructure spending has a positive effect on the economy.

In the short-term, infrastructure investments support jobs and businesses, leading to lower levels of unemployment and a higher level of economic growth. In the long-term, investments boost the competitiveness of businesses, thus leading to greater wealth creation and higher living standards. Also, for every \$1 billion in infrastructure spending, GDP is boosted by an average additional \$1.46 billion, or an average multiplier effect of 1.46.

We would be happy to meet with you and discuss in more detail the work that RCCAO has done on transit and transportation infrastructure issues and how industry and government can work collaboratively to ensure that infrastructure remains a priority for the Government of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Nadia Todorova  
Executive Director

Peter Smith  
RCCAO Board Chair

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Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association  
Joint Residential Construction Council  
LiUNA Local 183  
Ontario Formwork Association  
Toronto and Area Road Builders Association