



April 4, 2025

Hon. Kinga Surma  
Minister of Infrastructure  
Government of Ontario  
777 Bay Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5G2C8

*Sent electronically*

Dear Minister Surma:

On behalf of the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO), we would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your re-election and re-appointment to Cabinet as Minister of Infrastructure.

As you know, RCCAO is a unique alliance composed of management and labour groups that represents a wide spectrum of the Ontario construction industry. RCCAO's goal is to work in cooperation with government and related stakeholders to offer realistic solutions to a variety of challenges facing the construction industry and which also have wider societal benefits.

Our membership includes the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association; Heavy Construction Association of Toronto; International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793; Joint Residential Construction Association; LiUNA Local 183; Ontario Association of Foundation Specialists; Ontario Formwork Association; and Toronto and Area Road Builders Association.

RCCAO wants to commend the work you, your team and the Ministry have accomplished. The Ontario Government's continued commitment to investing in critical infrastructure is key to meeting the needs of our growing province, particularly through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, which has provided meaningful and necessary funding for municipalities and helped pave the way to unlock more housing opportunities across Ontario. That investment, coupled with the meaningful advancement on Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, reflects your forward-thinking vision that led RCCAO to endorse the party.

While much has been accomplished, we also recognize that challenges remain, particularly in the current unpredictable economic environment and global uncertainty. Infrastructure is the foundation for economic growth and competitiveness, especially in this economic climate. To ensure continued progress, it's crucial that we get people working and projects moving forward in a clear, timely, and predictable manner.

The timely and consistent release of work, particularly early tender calls, will be key to maintaining momentum, creating jobs, and keeping our workforce engaged and

productive. Timely and consistent release of work will be key to maintaining momentum, creating jobs, and keeping our workforce engaged and productive.

That is why it is critically important that the Ministry and Government:

- **Continue investment in Ontario's critical infrastructure**

Ontario's population is projected to increase by almost 42 percent over the next 28 years, reaching 22 million by 2051. Each region is projected to see growing populations over the projected period, with the Greater Toronto Area seeing the largest increase in population, adding over 3 million residents by 2051. A growing region requires growing infrastructure to move people and goods. There will be tangible financial and social consequences for all Ontarians if infrastructure does not keep pace with the province's growth.

RCCAO's [recently commissioned report](#) found that congestion can cost Ontario \$145 billion by 2044 and 558,000 jobs if investment in core public infrastructure – roads, bridges and transit – does not keep up with demand. The report solidifies the case for sustained, long-term investment into all kinds of transportation infrastructure to ensure people and goods are moving. As our report highlights, congestion is not merely a transportation issue—it is a core economic and social problem that can deteriorate business productivity and quality of life for all Ontarians.

In addition to focusing on building new infrastructure, it is also imperative for the government to invest in the maintenance of current infrastructure assets across the province. Investing in state-of-good-repair (SOGR) work is a foundational element in keeping regional economies strong and ensuring the longevity of Ontario's economic growth and competitiveness. Maintaining infrastructure in a state-of-good-repair maximizes the lifespan of infrastructure assets so that Ontario taxpayers get the best value for their money, while also decreasing the risk of disruptions to services that millions of residents rely on.

- **Enhance the application parameters of the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund**

While the province's funding commitments are commendable, current program requirements, including for the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund have inadvertently created barriers. Under existing rules, municipalities can only secure funding for projects that have not yet broken ground. As a result, many local governments were forced to delay or withhold projects scheduled for tender this year, awaiting word on whether they would receive funding.

The program requirements left dozens of shovel-ready projects on hold – delays that ultimately increased costs, exacerbated the infrastructure deficit, and held back housing development. A simple and effective solution would be to allow funding to apply to projects started within the same calendar year. This change would give municipalities the flexibility to move forward with priority projects while still accessing the resources they need. By aligning program rules with the realities of municipal planning and procurement, the province can unlock the full potential of its investments and accelerate the pace of work across the province.

Your leadership and commitment to Ontario's critical transit and transportation infrastructure have been truly commendable. We look forward to continuing our partnership and collaboration with your ministry as we work together to build a stronger, more connected Ontario.

Sincerely,



Nadia Todorova  
Executive Director

Copy to:

Thomas Staples, Chief of Staff (Acting), Minister's Office, Ministry of Infrastructure  
Adam Cotter, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Minister's Office, Ministry of Infrastructure