



January 7, 2020

The Honourable Marc Garneau  
Minister of Transport  
330 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

*Submitted electronically*

**Dear Minister Garneau:**

Congratulations on your reappointment as Minister of Transport.

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is a labour-management organization that advocates on behalf of tens of thousands of hard-working men and women who are employed in the construction industry.

On behalf of our member organizations, RCCAO commissions independent research into issues facing not only our industry, but also Ontario society. We have commissioned 52 reports to date, which seek solutions on topic ranging from mitigating traffic [congestion](#) to responsibly managing excess construction [soil](#). These reports have earned the respect of many, including Ontario government officials, for their objective, evidence-based findings and constructive recommendations.

A primary RCCAO focus since our inception has been the importance of investing in public infrastructure – from transit and waterworks to roads and bridges – and doing so smartly and efficiently for taxpayers and daily users of infrastructure. On topics such as gas tax [revenues](#), we have identified ways for governments to supplement these revenue tools by focusing on road pricing and innovative parking charges. This should also be something that the federal government focuses on. Not only is a long-term reliance on gas tax revenues a risky proposition, it also presents a contradiction as it is at odds with a transition to a low carbon economy.

There is widespread support for major infrastructure investment as a priority for all governments but more needs to be done to improve project evaluation methods. It is imperative to get the best value from our large capital expenditures on public infrastructure and to find innovative ways to finance them, including consistent implementation of user pay approaches.

One of the top priorities for the RCCAO is the building of the relief subway line in Toronto. Multi-level government funding of the 'Ontario Line' is critical to ensure that this fast-growing region is able to handle the expected increase in transit usage. If properly delivered, this project will not only relieve choke points such as the Yonge-Bloor station but will also provide benefits across the entire network for decades to come. We hope that the federal government will provide funding on an urgent basis.



We would be happy to meet with you and discuss in more detail the work that RCCAO has done on transportation-related issues and how industry and government can work collaboratively to ensure that transportation and transit remain top priorities for the Government of Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Manahan', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Andy Manahan  
Executive Director