



September 28, 2023

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria  
Minister of Transportation  
Government of Ontario  
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

*Sent electronically*

Dear Minister Sarkaria:

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

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 Formwork Association; and Toronto and Area Road Builders Association.

RCCAO wants to commend the work your government and predecessor have accomplished to date. The Ontario Government's continued commitment to investing in critical infrastructure is key to meeting the needs of our growing province. The \$27.9 billion announced earlier this year in the Ontario Budget for highway expansion rehabilitation, roads and bridges, including the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413, is crucial to keeping people and goods on the move across Ontario and the province's long-term prosperity. These projects will reduce congestion, foster economic recovery and long-term competitiveness, improve connectivity through the establishment of transportation corridors for future growth, and support the expansion of housing in the region.

Highway 413, in particular, is a transformative critical infrastructure project that will address anticipated population growth, facilitate much needed housing, and solidify the long-term competitiveness of Ontario. The project will ensure a viable corridor for commuters and industries that rely on highways for movement of goods and people across the region. The proposed transitway that will run alongside the highway and be dedicated exclusively for public transit, such as buses and light rail, is the sort of forward-thinking mix of transit and transportation infrastructure that the province needs.

RCCAO will build on its advocacy to continue to share the short-and long-term benefits of Highway 413, as highlighted in our commissioned [Jobs and Economic Impact of the GTA West Corridor](#) report. In addition to meeting the long-term needs of the province, the report detailed many additional economic and employment benefits of building the highway.



The budget's allocation of \$70.5 billion for transit will help grow transit-oriented communities in the province's fastest growing regions. As the population of the province grows, demand will increase on all infrastructure, from transit, highways, roads, bridges, water and wastewater to housing. Inaction would have real consequences. Congestion already costs the Greater Toronto Area \$11 billion per year in lost productivity. These commitments will ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated and infrastructure across Ontario is built and maintained for everyone's long-term prosperity.

We urge the Ontario Government to expedite the process to move forward with these important initiatives as quickly as possible to avoid costly delays. RCCAO members are ready to work to build critical infrastructure and housing to realize the prosperous future for the people of Ontario.

We enjoyed a productive and collaborative relationship with your predecessor and her staff, and we look forward to continuing the positive momentum with you and your team. I look forward to our meeting tomorrow and discussing industry's challenges and opportunities in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadia Todorova', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Nadia Todorova  
Executive Director

Copy to:

Hon. Vijay Thanigasalam, Associate Minister of Transportation

Hardeep Singh Grewal, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation

Megan Skinner, Interim Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, Ministry of Transportation

Luca Campagna, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Minister's Office, Ministry of Transportation