



July 14, 2022

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria
President of the Treasury Board
Rm 4320, 99 Wellesley St W.,
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

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 re-election and re-appointment to Cabinet as President of the Treasury Board.

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 Formwork Association, and Toronto and Area Road Builders Association.

RCCAO wants to commend the work you, your team and Treasury Board 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 \$25.1 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 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.

The budget's allocation of \$61.1 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 will be built and maintained for the future.

It is important to note that municipalities across the province are still reeling from the impacts of the pandemic on their operating budgets. RCCAO is pleased the Ontario Government will continue to support municipalities with \$316.2 million in financial assistance, matching the Federal Government's contribution for municipalities, which is crucial to ensuring cities' state-of-good-repair (SOGR) projects proceed without interruptions or cuts. However, given that many revenue sources that municipalities rely on have yet to recover, the Province must remain ready to help cities address their funding gaps and prevent SOGR projects from being impacted.

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 would appreciate the opportunity to meet you at your earliest convenience to discuss our continued collaboration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadia Todorova', written in a cursive style.

Nadia Todorova
Executive Director

Copy to:

Rudy Cuzzetto, Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board
Todd J. McCarthy, Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board
Jenna Bendayan, Chief of Staff, Office of the President of the Treasury Board