



March 24, 2026

His Worship Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair  
Members of Regional Council  
Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive  
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

*Sent electronically*

**Re: Prioritized Project List for Review**

Dear Chair Iannicca and Members of Regional Council,

I am writing regarding the motion introduced at the February 26 Council meeting directing regional staff to develop a prioritized list of infrastructure projects so that Council can determine "...which projects are to be delayed, cancelled, rescope, and which need to move forward".

**As a unique labour-management association, RCCAO has grave concerns with this motion and Council's approach to delivering critical regional critical infrastructure.**

RCCAO represents both labour and management stakeholders from the residential and civil construction sectors of Ontario. Our members build and maintain most of Ontario's critical infrastructure that all Ontarians rely on and include 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; Ontario Association of Foundation Specialists; and the Toronto and Area Road Builders Association.

**We offer our full support for GTSWCA's submission on this issue, which is attached to our letter and outlines important and substantive concerns related to this motion.**

RCCAO would urge Council to approach the content of this motion with caution and careful consideration. Infrastructure investment must be treated as a long-term strategic priority, not a short-term budget adjustment. Delaying or cancelling projects risks significant economic impacts, including job losses, workforce instability, and reduced local economic activity, while also exacerbating skilled labour shortages over time.

Deferrals of critical infrastructure work often increase overall costs and create inefficient and uneven investment patterns that strain both budgets and delivery capacity.



Maintaining a consistent pipeline of infrastructure investments is essential to controlling costs, retaining skilled workers, and ensuring the Region is prepared to meet future growth and infrastructure demands.

For these reasons, RCCAO strongly urges Council to prioritize stability and continuity in its infrastructure program and to avoid short-term decisions that may undermine the Region's long-term economic resilience and growth. The decisions made today will have lasting impacts on Peel's ability to deliver the infrastructure its residents and businesses depend on.

Sincerely,

Nadia Todorova  
Executive Director



March 20, 2026

Sent via email to: [regionalclerk@peelregion.ca](mailto:regionalclerk@peelregion.ca)

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Members of Regional Council  
Regional Municipality of Peel  
10 Peel Centre Drive  
Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

**Re: Prioritized Project List for Review**

Dear Chair Iannicca and Members of Regional Council,

I am writing on behalf of the member companies of the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association (GTSWCA) regarding the motion introduced at the February 26 Council meeting directing Regional staff to develop a prioritized list of infrastructure projects so that Council can determine "...which projects are to be delayed, cancelled, rescope, and which need to move forward..."

While the fiscal pressures facing municipalities today are well understood, I urge Council to approach this exercise with caution. Infrastructure investment is often viewed as a flexible line item in municipal budgets, something that can be postponed during challenging financial periods. However, we would stress that these decisions carry a lot of additional weight than simply a financial decision.

These projects represent far more than pipes in the ground or pavement on a road. They represent jobs, stability, and opportunity for the people who build and maintain the infrastructure that keeps our communities functioning. The construction workforce that delivers this work, lives in Region and the surrounding areas. They raise their families here, spend their wages locally, and contribute to the strength of the local economy. When infrastructure projects are delayed or cancelled, the impact is immediate: workers are sidelined, companies lose stability, and economic activity in the Region slows.

The municipal infrastructure sector already faces skilled labour shortages. The current slowdown may temporarily mask this challenge, but it will return quickly when housing construction and infrastructure investment accelerate again. If projects are paused or cancelled, skilled workers will be forced to seek employment elsewhere. Once they leave the industry or relocate to other jurisdictions, bringing them back becomes extremely difficult. Maintaining a steady pipeline of work is essential to retaining the workforce we will need to build Peel Region's future infrastructure.



From a financial standpoint, deferring projects rarely results in real savings. Infrastructure construction costs have increased dramatically in recent years. Materials used in road, bridge, sewer, and watermain projects are now significantly more expensive than they were just a few years ago, and global supply chain pressures, tariffs, and material constraints continue to push prices upward. Delaying projects simply means paying more for the same work later. A project that costs \$1 million today could easily cost \$1.5 million in just a few years.

Inconsistent investment also creates boom-and-bust cycles that drive costs even higher. When projects are paused and later rushed to meet growth demands or address deteriorating infrastructure, municipalities often face reduced competition, constrained labour availability, and inflated construction pricing. Consistent investment leads to better pricing, stronger competition, and more predictable delivery.

While housing construction may currently be slowing, infrastructure planning must operate on a longer timeline. Systems must be maintained and expanded to support both existing residents and the growth that will inevitably return. If we fail to invest now, the Region will soon find itself facing simultaneous pressures: rehabilitating aging infrastructure while urgently trying to expand capacity to support renewed growth.

For these reasons, I urge Council to view infrastructure investment not simply as a cost to be managed, but as a strategic investment in Peel Region's economic stability, workforce retention, and long-term resilience. The decisions made today will shape the Region's ability to build and maintain the infrastructure its residents depend on. A consistent investment approach supports workers, stabilizes costs, and ensures the Region is prepared for the future.

We appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Patrick McManus,  
Executive Director