



July 3, 2019

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street
College Park, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Mulroney,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Transportation.

As you may know, the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) advocates on behalf of the tens of thousands of hard-working men and women who are employed in the construction industry, both as union members and as employers.

On behalf of our member organizations, RCCAO commissions independent research into the issues facing not only our industry, but also Ontario society. We have released 50 reports to date, which seek solutions on topics ranging from better managing traffic congestion to responsibly managing excess construction soil. Of the many issues that our reports have addressed, there are three that are of importance: preparing for automated vehicles/new mobility, improving public-private partnerships (P3s) and maximizing value from infrastructure projects.

In 2017, we commissioned Bern Grush to write a follow up [report](#) on AVs entitled “Ontario Must Prepare for Vehicle Automation, Part 2: How Skilled Governance Can Influence Its Outcome.” A short [video](#) was produced to help communicate the major themes in the report.

In 2018, Mr. Grush, in collaboration with U.S.-based John Niles, released a provocatively titled book “The End of Driving: Transportation Systems and Public Policy Planning for Autonomous Vehicles.” This book outlines preferred scenarios for deployment of AVs. While the private sector has focused on the technology-side, there is a role for governments to influence a more positive future through data-driven approaches.

Further, the RCCAO is one of the key stakeholders that has participated in the Future of Mobility Workshop hosted by Infrastructure Ontario. Later this summer, a white paper will be produced consisting of recommendations and considerations for the Province.

In 2017 RCCAO [commissioned](#) former deputy minister Michael Fenn to assess the role of Infrastructure Ontario. He outlined ways to improve both the delivery of P3 projects and traditionally procured projects. From RCCAO’s perspective, we were supportive of recommendations that would strengthen bidding opportunities for local firms, as well as ideas to more appropriately allocate risk. There were related suggestions to reduce bidder risk by addressing scope creep and expediting permit processes.



In this regard, RCCAO and the Municipal Engineers Association initiated a successful joint EBR [application](#) last year to improve Municipal Class EA processes which are hampering the effective delivery of many infrastructure projects across Ontario. We have been in contact with your Cabinet colleagues on these matters. We have also spoken to them and other government officials on the importance of building the Ontario Line (aka the Relief Line). Based on extensive feedback and consultation with transit specialists, this project is the top transit priority for the region.

We would very much like to meet with you to discuss the government's role in nudging AV deployment in the right direction (this could include, for example, first and last mile solutions to GO stations to increase ridership), on the combined role of MTO and MOI in delivering provincial and municipal infrastructure projects more cost effectively and on how the Class EA process could be modernized to reduce the unnecessary regulatory burden.

Sincerely,

Andy Manahan
Executive Director

Copy to:

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Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association
L.I.U.N.A. Local 183
The Heavy Construction Association of Toronto
Joint Residential Construction Council
Toronto and Area Road Builders Association
Carpenters' Union
Ontario Formwork Association
International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793