

RCCAO lauds government for infrastructure assessment, says more investment is needed

DCN-JOC News Services July 12, 2021



VAUGHAN, ONT.—In a submission to Infrastructure Canada the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) applauds the National Infrastructure Assessment but says the feds must tackle the country’s massive infrastructure deficit and commit more money into transit, waterworks and roads and bridges.

Consideration must be given to both multi-year, legacy-type infrastructure projects, such as the Ontario Line, as well as everyday state-of-good-repair projects, states the release, adding regular infrastructure maintenance work is “an important source of employment and ensures that critical infrastructure is operating efficiently and safely.”

The submission states infrastructure funding for capital projects should be based on evidence-based, business-case approaches and supported by asset management plans for municipal projects to ensure that investment addresses municipal need.

It also says there needs to be a greatly expanded use of electronic permitting in the planning, engineering and building permitting areas of infrastructure development to enable municipal, regional and provincial authorities and external agencies to be on a common platform.

“As the government embarks on this sort of long-term planning, one thing must be kept top of mind: Investing in capital projects is one of the best ways to create jobs and help our economy recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic and flourish thereafter,” said RCCAO executive director Nadia Todorova in a statement.

“Despite recent record infrastructure investments by federal and provincial governments, significantly more capital investments are necessary. We need to continue with current and future transit development projects, expanding our highways, dedicating funds to address aging water and wastewater systems, and streamlining the development and building approvals process in the GTA.”