



Resolution in support of Via Rail's High-Frequency Train project

PROPOSED BY: Warden Robin Jones

SUPPORTED BY: Warden Mark Walas

WHEREAS VIA Rail has submitted a High-Frequency Train proposal to the Government of Canada for the Windsor-Québec Corridor, the busiest in Canada;

WHEREAS this project aims to improve the quality, frequency and reliability of passenger rail services and will have a direct effect on the viability of Via Rail by attracting more customers while stimulating economic growth;

WHEREAS the VIA Rail project allows more options for connections with other modes of transportation such as light rail and local railways;

WHEREAS the VIA Rail project provides access to the city centers of the railway network, which maximizes its relevance, efficiency and use;

WHEREAS the VIA Rail project increases connections with smaller communities and increases intercity transit, and increases services on existing lines;

WHEREAS this project requires a significant financial contribution from the Government of Canada but also from private sector investments;

WHEREAS this project allows an increase in intercity passenger services, which will lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, thereby effectively supporting the Government of Canada's environmental objectives and directions following the signing of the Paris Protocol;

WHEREAS the VIA Rail Project is consistent with the Government of Canada's priorities for public transit infrastructure;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus:

- 1. Support VIA Rail's High-Frequency Train project;**
- 2. Call upon the Government of Canada to provide financial support for Via Rail's High-Frequency Train project;**
- 3. Request the Government of Ontario to include VIA Rail's proposed High-Frequency Train project in the list of priority infrastructure projects for Ontario;**
- 4. Call on the governments of Canada and Ontario to ensure that the High-Frequency Train projects of Via Rail are carried out in a way that enables the user to have direct and fast access to railway stations and hubs in communities across rural Eastern Ontario.**

CARRIED

Picton, Ontario
June 23, 2017