



**Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Office**

CITY of STRATFORD
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November 28, 2022

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Resolution – Funding and Support for VIA Rail Services

At their November 14, 2022, Regular Council meeting, Stratford City Council adopted a resolution petitioning the federal government to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA Rail service.

A copy of the resolution is attached for your consideration. We kindly request your support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Dafoe
Clerk

Encl.
/ja

cc: Premier Doug Ford
MPP Matthew Rae
MP John Nater
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
All Ontario municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD
Resolution: Funding and Support for VIA Rail Service

WHEREAS The Corporation of the City of Stratford supports the National Transportation Policy and Section 5 of the *Canada Transportation Act*, S.C. 1996, c. 10 (as amended), which states in part:

"a competitive, economic and efficient national transportation system that meets the highest practicable safety and security standards and contributes to a sustainable environment, makes best use of all modes of transportation at the lowest cost is essential to serve the needs of its users, advance the well-being of Canadians, enable competitiveness and economic growth in both urban and rural areas throughout Canada. Those objectives are achieved when:

(a) competition and market forces among modes of transportation, are prime agents in providing viable and effective transportation services;

(b) regulation and strategic public intervention are used to achieve economic, safety, security, environmental or social outcomes

(c) rates and conditions do not constitute an undue obstacle to the movement of traffic within Canada or to the export of goods from Canada;

(d) the transportation system is accessible without undue obstacle to the mobility of persons, including persons with disabilities; and

(e) governments and the private sector work together for an integrated transportation system."

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has stated: "*we are serious about climate change*" and "*smart investments in transit help connection communities We will continue to work with communities and invest in the infrastructure they need today and into the future*";

WHEREAS Abacus data has indicated that Canadians are focused on building transit to reduce congestion and connect communities;

WHEREAS the Canadian Transport Commission main finding at public hearings in 1977 was that there should be no further reductions to passenger rail services;

WHEREAS the frequency of VIA trains running in Canada has been reduced significantly since 1977, causing a subsequent significant drop in ridership;

WHEREAS there is a need for balanced transportation with more using transit and less using automobiles;

WHEREAS the changing demographic relating to house prices, housing affordability will require further expansions of transit;

WHEREAS there is a need to visit tourist sites located along rail lines;

WHEREAS the annual cost of congestion to the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area economy alone is between \$7.5 and \$11 billion;

WHEREAS there are 10 million more vehicles on the road today than there were in 2000; and

WHEREAS the City of Stratford requests the support of this resolution from all communities served by VIA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of The City of Stratford recommends to the Government of Canada to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA rail service in 2022 and successive years.

Adopted by City Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford on November 14, 2022

The Corporation of the City of Stratford, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1
Attention: City Clerk, 519-271-0250 extension 5329, clerks@stratford.ca