

Resolution: The EOWC Opposes ALTO High-Speed Rail Project in its Current Form

Date: March 19, 2026

Moved by: Warden Richard Kidd, Lanark County

Seconded by: Warden Corinna Smith-Gatcke, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

WHEREAS the Federal Government has identified ALTO high-speed rail as a nation-building project with an estimated cost of \$60 to \$90 billion, to deliver faster, more reliable passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS ALTO is advancing plans for a high-speed passenger rail project between the Quebec City-Toronto corridor, cutting through eastern Ontario; and

WHEREAS there is only currently one proposed stop across the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus' (EOWC) 50,000 square kilometre region, benefitting urban residents at the cost of rural residents and lands; and

WHEREAS portions of the proposed project will traverse and impact eastern Ontario communities, infrastructure, residential and agricultural lands, municipal trails, and environmentally sensitive areas, and with no long-term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS the closure and/or dead-ending of roads will have significant ongoing and unknown costs to municipalities, as well as service delivery and emergency response implications to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS eastern Ontario municipalities and residents have not received sufficient detailed information regarding potential local impacts, including land use, environmental effects, municipal infrastructure interfaces, and long-term financial or operational implications; and

WHEREAS municipal governments are responsible for protecting local interests, ensuring compatibility with existing planning frameworks, as well as safeguarding environmental, community, and resident mental health and well-being; and

WHEREAS the EOWC and its member municipalities are actively trying to engage with ALTO through a truly meaningful consultation process to understand the impacts of both proposed high speed rail train routes to our residents, lands, trails, and businesses; and

WHEREAS the EOWC is eastern Ontario's united advocacy voice representing 103 communities who value and will advocate for the region's beautiful lands that hold deep

agricultural and cultural roots, and that are home to our rural and small-urban communities that will be impacted by ALTO.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the EOWC formally opposes the ALTO project in its current form; and

THAT this opposition is based on concerns related to insufficient municipal consultation, unclear rural and small-urban impacts, potential environmental effects, and alignments with existing eastern Ontario planning and infrastructure priorities; and

THAT the EOWC urge our member municipalities, partners, businesses, and residents to share their questions and comments with ALTO and federal representatives as part of the engagement process; and

THAT the EOWC look to gather detailed information from ALTO to more fully understand the project and its impacts across eastern Ontario; and

THAT the EOWC advocates that the Federal Government and ALTO fully explore train route options along existing infrastructure corridors, such as VIA Rail and/or Highway 401; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Steve MacKinnon, Minister of Transportation, Martin Imbleau, President and CEO of ALTO, EOWC Members of Parliament, Premier Doug Ford, EOWC Members of Provincial Parliament, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, all EOWC municipalities, and Eastern Ontario First Nations partners.

CARRIED

Signed by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie Clark".

EOWC Chair Bonnie Clark
info@eowc.org