



Office of the City Clerk

March 6, 2025

Via email: clerks@stratford.ca

Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk
City of Stratford
Box 818
Stratford, ON N5A 6W1

Dear Tatiana:

Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, March 4, 2025 – Resolution Number 2025-116; High Speed Rail Project

At the regular Council meeting on March 4, 2025, Council approved Resolution Number 2025-116 with respect to High Speed Rail Project as follows:

Whereas in 2017 senior officials from VIA Rail Canada asked communities along the Quebec-Windsor Corridor for their endorsement of VIA's proposed High Frequency Rail (HFR) project to support VIA's advocacy efforts with the federal government; and

Whereas the City supported VIA's HFR project with the understanding that although Kingston would not be a stop on the proposed line, it would become a VIA Rail Regional Hub in Eastern Ontario with increased service and more trains starting and ending in Kingston; and

Whereas under VIA Rail's Regional Hub Model smaller communities in Eastern Ontario would also benefit from additional service to support their towns and cities; and

Whereas on February 19, 2025 VIA Rail Canada and the federal government announced that they were no longer planning a VIA HFR but a new High Speed Rail project that would completely bypass Kingston; and

Whereas as one of the five busiest VIA stations in the country, VIA's change of direction disproportionately impacts the residents of Kingston and Eastern Ontario

The Corporation of the City of Kingston

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who have been pushing for years for more convenient and reliable train service;
and

Whereas VIA Rail's recent decision to fundamentally change their plans for rail expansion after securing Kingston's endorsement is a breach of trust that undermines eight years of working with our community in a collaborative way;

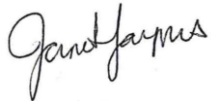
Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Kingston formally withdraw its support for the VIA Rail High Speed Rail proposal and request VIA to honour their original commitment to Kingston for a Regional Hub that will improve service and train frequency; and

That the City develop an advocacy approach in collaboration with Eastern Ontario Communities and others cities along the Quebec – Windsor corridor that will be negatively impacted by VIA's change of direction; and

That City Council request representatives from VIA Rail Canada to appear before Council to explain the change in their proposal and next steps for increased rail service in Kingston; and

That a copy of this motion be sent to Mario Peloquin, President and CEO of VIA Rail Canada, Martin Imbleau, President of VIA Rail HFR, The Honourable Anita Anand, M.P., P.C., Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, Mark Gerretsen, M.P. Kingston and the Islands, the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Kingston, Kingston Economic Development, Queen's University, CFB Kingston, St. Lawrence College, Kingston Health Sciences Centre, the Downtown Kingston BIA, the Ontario Big City Mayors' Caucus, the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, Josh Morgan, Mayor of London, Stephanie LaCoste, Mayor of Drummondville and other municipalities along the Quebec City – Windsor Corridor impacted by this announcement.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Jaynes
City Clerk
/nb