



2025-03-27

Dear Mayor/Warden and Council,

Re: Update on Regional Rail Infrastructure Project Application

On behalf of South Central Ontario Region Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, I would like to thank you once again for your support of the regional short line freight rail initiative aimed at supporting long-term economic development across our communities.

I am writing today to provide an update on the status of the funding application previously submitted to National Trade Corridor Fund. While we have not yet received a decision regarding our original submission, we are actively working to strengthen the proposal by refining its focus and resubmitting an updated application. The revised application will shift focus from primarily rail crossings to include rail bridgework that is critical to achieving expanded logistics infrastructure that serves the entire region and aligns more closely with current economic priorities and realities.

This infrastructure project is particularly important as it supports the resilience and growth of our region's manufacturing and agricultural sectors — two of the most significant contributors to our regional economy. Given the recent changes to U.S. tariffs policies and evolving trade relationships, strengthening our regional supply chains and infrastructure has become even more vital. This project will help ensure that producers and manufacturers across our municipalities can remain competitive, access markets more efficiently, and adapt to changing economic conditions.

At this time, we are not requesting any additional financial commitment. The existing commitments remain in place to support the project, and no funds are required. Financial commitments will only be necessary upon successful funding application, as indicated in our original request to members. We remain committed to transparency and collaboration as the project progresses and will continue to keep you informed on key developments and next steps.

Thank you again for your continued support and shared commitment to regional economic development. Should you have any questions or require further details, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind regards,

Ed Ketchabaw

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