



May 4, 2022

Oxford County  
Members of Council

Members of Council,

As you are aware SCOR EDC and partners have undertaken a shortline rail project that will seek to revitalize the Cayuga Sub Division Line that runs through the southern portion of the region.

This track is approximately 27 miles long and runs from St Thomas through Elgin County, through Oxford County (Tillsonburg) and into Norfolk County. This line serves several businesses that are mainly in the agricultural, manufacturing and logistics sectors. These businesses are each an integral part of the sector supply chain for this region and the province. In addition to the businesses along the line that rely on rail there are a number of industrial properties along the line for future development.

SCOR EDC has signed a Letter of Intent with GIO Rail (a shortline rail operator) and the Town of Tillsonburg for this project. This collaborative group has made application to the National Trade Corridor Fund (NTCF) for support upgrading the rail line's infrastructure. These upgrades will prolong the life of the rail line and increase weight and speed capacity to better align with nearby Class 1 lines and maximize car volume. Overall, this project will cost approximately \$8 million over a 3-year timespan. If approved, the NTCF will fund 50% of the \$6.6 million of eligible project costs. GIO Rail will cover the majority of remaining eligible project costs as well as the entirety of ineligible costs. However, we now require support from affected municipalities in order to cover a portion of remaining costs as well as to demonstrate regional support and secure NTCF funding. Due to the competitive nature of the fund the program an application must demonstrate regional support for the project; both in principle and in actual financial support.

We are requesting a letter of support from Oxford County as well as a financial commitment of \$150,000 over the three-year time frame of the project. The bulk of these costs will go to address crossings and track upgrades. We will also be requesting the same amount from Elgin County at their May 10th Council meeting. We anticipate that we may be back before Elgin Council to provide any other clarification at their May 24th Council meeting. We will also be approaching Norfolk County with an ask of a lesser amount as the track into Norfolk is slated for a phase two of the project.

We strongly believe that this project will support current businesses as well as the supply chain within the sectors they operate. Collectively these businesses employ over 400 people, and have a combined revenue of over \$1 billion dollars. Additionally, restoring efficient and reliable rail service along the Cayuga Subdivision will act as a regional economic development asset, attracting new investment and opportunity.

Kind regards,

Alison Warwick  
SCOR EDC  
Chair