



March 10, 2021

Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
Ministry of Transportation
777 Bay St. 5th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Z8

RE: Brampton Board of Trade Continued Support for the GTA West Corridor Highway

Dear Minister Mulroney,

On behalf of the Brampton Board of Trade, I am writing to thank you for your continued strong leadership in moving forward with the GTA West Corridor Highway.

Members of the Brampton Board of Trade employ over 45,000 in Brampton, providing more than 1 in every 3 jobs in our city. I wanted you to know that the Brampton Board of Trade remains steadfast in support of your efforts to accelerate the building of this important asset.

The initial study of the proposed corridor began in 2008, more than 12 years ago. Ongoing growth and congestion within the Region of Peel continues. Estimates are that the GTA will welcome more than a million new residents over the next 10 years. Drivers, both businesses and employees, are reminded daily why this artery is key to providing effective transportation solutions for people and goods within the region and across the Greater Toronto Area.

Recently, it has been disappointing to read that some municipalities downplay the benefits of the highway. Transportation benefits were clearly articulated in the Stage 1 Environmental Assessment including the total delay savings for the recommended corridor. In the assessment, Alt 4-3 forecast that the total delay savings would be 21,497 hours for automobiles, and 2,783 hours for commercial vehicles during the pm peak hour each day. That savings makes a significant positive difference in the lives of GTA residents and the competitive advantage of our region for jobs and investment.

Your government resumed the environmental process for the highway in June of 2019. To support economic recovery efforts, needed because of the pandemic, now is an opportune time to accelerate approvals for infrastructure projects such as the highway. In August of 2020, your Ministry announced the technically preferred route. A month earlier, you proposed

regulations to streamline assessment of potential environmental impacts. Thank you for understanding the urgency of this highway and meeting the progress deadlines you have set. The business case for the highway outlined in the 2012 Transportation Development Study is strong, indicating among many benefits, a \$1 billion annual boost to provincial GDP. We eagerly await the delivery of the final environmental assessment report by 2022.

As you know, there are many more benefits to moving forward with this highway. In addition to the strong business case, the highway helps the Region meet its population and employment targets established by the provincial *Places to Grow* policy. Areas in the City of Brampton situated along the corridor, including Heritage Heights and Mayfield West, have been identified by the Region as key to meeting these targets. As well, employers value office sites with highway access, so that they are better able to draw on a regional talent pool. Collaborations among tech communities in York, Peel and Halton will also be better facilitated with this highway. We understand that the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and the Independent Electricity System Operator are completing a study for an electricity transmission corridor adjacent to the highway. A transmission corridor providing a reliable supply of electricity will also add to the investment potential and competitive advantage of our region.

Minister Mulroney, the Brampton Board of Trade strongly supports the completion of the environmental assessment for the GTA West Corridor and looks forward the project's ultimate approval, its funding and start of construction.

Thank you again, for your strong leadership on this project.

Sincerely,



Todd Letts, MBA, CCE
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
Amarjot Sandhu, MPP, Brampton West
Nando Iannicca, Chair, Region of Peel and Members of Regional Council
Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton and Members of City Council
Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga and Members of City Council
Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon and Members of Town Council