

Municipal Services Committee Meeting – May 27, 2024

Agenda Item #11.4

Notice of Motion: Mayor Hoogenboom - High Frequency Rail Project

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

To pass a Resolution that;

Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes supports the Town of Smiths Falls Resolution requesting that the the Government of Canada and the High Frequency Rail Project Office locate a passenger rail station in the Town of Smiths Falls to provide convenient regional access to the new service.



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

April 26th, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: High Frequency Rail Project

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their April 15th, 2024 meeting of Council.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has endorsed a procurement process for the development of a High Frequency Passenger Rail service connecting communities from Toronto to Quebec City;

WHEREAS this project aims to make rail travel in Ontario and Quebec faster, more frequent and more reliable to attract more customers while stimulating economic growth;

WHEREAS the HFR project allows more options for connections with other modes of transportation;

WHEREAS the VIA Rail project increases connections with smaller communities and increases intercity transit, and increases services on existing rail lines;

WHEREAS this HFR project enables an increase in intercity passenger services, which will lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, thereby effectively supporting the Government of Canada's environmental objectives of greenhouse gas reductions;

WHEREAS the HFR project is consistent with the Government of Canada's priorities for public transit infrastructure;

WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls Strategic Plan identifies high frequency rail service in our community as a priority;

WHEREAS the Town of Smiths Falls is centrally located between Lanark and Leeds & Grenville Counties representing a commuter shed of 180,000 people;

WHEREAS Smiths Falls is geographically situated along the proposed HFR corridor and represents a natural and logical access point for the new high frequency passenger rail service;

WHEREAS Smiths Falls is geographically situated along the existing dedicated passenger rail corridor operated by VIA Rail it represents a natural and logical access point to interconnect the existing and new high frequency passenger rail services for optimum accessibility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Smiths Falls requests that the Government of Canada and the High Frequency Rail Project Office locate a passenger rail station in the Town of Smiths Falls to provide convenient regional access to the new service;



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

*AND THAT the Town of Smiths Falls requests support from all upper, lower and single tier municipalities in Lanark and Leeds & Grenville Counties representing the catchment area for the proposed HFR rail station;
AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to Federal Transport Minister Pablo Rodriguez, MP Scott Reid, HFR CEO Martin Imbleau, MPP John Jordan, and all upper, lower and single tier municipalities in Lanark and Leeds & Grenville Counties.*

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk