

Minister of Infrastructure
and Communities



Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

Ministre de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités



AUG 23 2016

Mr. Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Emmerson:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 7, 2016, regarding the Regional Municipality of York's Centres and Corridors Strategy for transit in follow up to our meeting earlier this year.

As you know, we are working closely with all of our partners and stakeholders to deliver an ambitious plan that will significantly increase federal infrastructure investments and build strong communities. Infrastructure is the foundation of sustainable and inclusive communities – it removes barriers, brings people together and allows all Canadians to be active participants in their community.

Phase 1 of the Government of Canada's infrastructure plan will provide \$11.9 billion over five years to modernize public transit, improve water and wastewater systems, expand affordable housing, and protect infrastructure from the effects of climate change. In addition, the engagement process, now underway, will help inform the development of Phase 2 of the Government's infrastructure plan, including bilateral agreements with the provinces and territories, long-term outcomes, and program design. We expect Phase 2 funding details to be announced within the next year.

In Budget 2016, we introduced the \$3.4-billion Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) to support sustainable, livable communities and encourage economic growth. The PTIF will primarily support investments that meet immediate public priorities, including projects that: improve the state of good repair of public transit, support system optimization and efficiency, increase asset management capacity, and improve design and planning for future expansion of public transit systems. Both funds will lay the groundwork for longer-term strategic investments that will keep pace with the rapid growth of Canadian cities.

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As part of Phase 1, PTIF projects located in Ontario are cumulatively allocated approximately \$1.49 billion in federal funding. The Government of Canada is in the process of finalizing bilateral agreements with the provinces and territories to deliver the program. The provinces and territories will then enter into agreements with eligible ultimate recipients, including municipalities, to construct the projects and transfer PTIF funding. These projects must be completed over the next few years.

Given the indicated timing of your proposed project, it may be better suited for funding under Phase 2 of the Government's infrastructure plan, which is focused on longer-term projects. I would therefore encourage you to provide your proposal to the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure so that it may determine whether it should be prioritized for funding consideration under this program once program details are announced.

Your proposed project may also be eligible under the renewed and indexed Gas Tax Fund provided that the Regional Municipality of York, as the ultimate recipient under the program, chooses to apply its allocation to such a project.

Thank you for writing on these important program design issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Sohi". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Amarjeet Sohi, P.C., M.P.