

Office of the
County Warden



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September 10, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Via Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Office of the Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A5
Via Email: Premier@ontario.ca

RE: Support for a Nation-Building 2+1 Highway Program on Highways 17 & 11, Phased Implementation, and Federal-Provincial Partnership under the Building Canada Act

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Premier Ford:

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew, at their regular meeting on September 10, 2025, passed a motion in support of a Nation Building 2+1 Highway Program on Hwy 17 and 11. Our community believes both of your governments received strong mandates to invest in Canada, to mitigate the erratic decisions of the USA. Utilizing highway 416 domestic and international goods can access the ports along the St. Lawrence.

We are hopeful and trust all Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament who are elected or reside in communities adjacent to the corridor will signify their support and join in endorsing this Nation building project. We are well past the point where partisan posing will develop solutions or result in a project of the magnitude of importance this one has for Canada. Local municipalities and associations are being asked to endorse this project and to share it with the community.

The motions passed unanimously is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. OP-CC-25-08-112

Moved by Chair

Seconded by Committee

WHEREAS Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors; and

WHEREAS four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor; and

WHEREAS the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway; and

WHEREAS modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

WHEREAS a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay → Cochrane, then Cochrane → Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew → Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie → Sudbury; Thunder Bay → Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

WHEREAS analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Renfrew formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project; and

THAT the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act* and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction; and

THAT the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit):

- Phase 1: Highway 11 (North Bay → Cochrane) and Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew → Sudbury);
- Phase 2: Highway 11 (Cochrane → Nipigon) and Highway 17 (Thunder Bay → Kenora; Sault Ste. Marie → Sudbury); and

THAT the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and

THAT both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and

THAT the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials); and

THAT this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), and neighboring municipalities for support; and

THAT a copy be posted to the municipal website and related social media channels.

I hope you will be able to visit our community. We would welcome an opportunity to arrange and accompany you on a visit to Garrison Petawawa, an important part of Canada's Defense and International Crisis Response Strategy. The Garrison has developed over 100 years with significant federal, provincial and municipal investment. At the same time, we would also suggest a visit to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Chalk River site. For over 70 years, it has been and remains home to Canada's nuclear industry.

Together they represent \$100s of billions of past, present and future investment by Ontario and Canada. The future should be limitless in terms of their development and their ability to respond to emergencies. The sad truth is, they are strangled by two lanes of a congested TransCanada highway, heading both west and east.

Sincerely,



Peter Emon
Warden

c.: The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Transport Canada, chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca;
TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca
The Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Infrastructure Canada, gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca
Member of Parliament Cheryl Gallant, cheryl.gallant@parl.gc.ca
Member of Parliament Pauline Rochefort, pauline.rochefort.P9@parl.gc.ca
The Honorable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue minister-ministre@fin.gc.ca
Member of Provincial Parliament Billy Denault, billy.denault@pc.ola.org
The Honorable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, Ontario, minister.fin@ontario.ca
The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Ontario Minister of Transportation, minister.mto.@ontario.ca
President Rebecca Bligh, Federation of Municipalities, resolutions@fcm.ca
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Chair Rick Dumas, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, mayor@marathon.ca
Chair Christa Lowry, Rural Ontario Municipal Association, clowry@mississippimills.ca
Mark Wilson, GEMS, mwilson@temiskamingshores.ca
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Mayor Ron Gervais, City of Pembroke, RGervais@pembroke.ca
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