

April 30, 2026

**The Right Honourable Mark Carney**

Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

We, the undersigned mayors and reeves of municipalities along the proposed southern corridor of the ALTO High-Speed Rail (HSR) project, write to express our unified opposition to this proposed project, specifically its route through our communities.

As elected leaders responsible for the well-being of our rural constituents, we feel it is our duty to formally raise concerns regarding the lack of a transparent and credible business case for this \$90 billion investment. At present, there is a complete absence of clear data on projected ridership and demand for the ALTO HSR, leaving us to question whether such a substantial investment in infrastructure payable by all Canadians is justified.

Why is there no consideration of the existing 401 corridor, a proven transportation route with established infrastructure that could be enhanced to meet future demands? The ALTO project, on the other hand, appears to impose unnecessary burdens on our rural residents, without offering a reasonable justification in terms of ridership or public benefit. Alternatively, we would like consideration of High Frequency Rail along existing rail corridors.

We are particularly concerned about the devastating local impacts the ALTO project will have on our municipalities, particularly in the southern corridor. The following issues are of critical concern:

- **Expropriation Threats via Bill C-15:** Our residents face the very real prospect of having to surrender private land to facilitate this project with unknown compensation.
- **Loss of Property and Devaluation:** Property values will be significantly impacted, leading to a decrease in the wealth and well-being of rural landowners, as well as our tax base on which we rely to fund our local governments.
- **Disruption to Development and Construction:** The uncertainty surrounding the alignment of the ALTO corridor is already causing a slowdown in local building permits and construction projects.

- **Destruction of Rural Landscapes:** The ALTO project threatens to destroy our cherished rural landscapes, agricultural lands, and environmentally sensitive natural features, including the UNESCO World Heritage Rideau Canal and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere.
- **Fragmentation of Communities:** The proposed alignment risks splitting our rural communities, diminishing the social fabric that binds us together and undermining the quality of life for our residents.
- **Lack of Access for Local Residents:** With no planned stops for local residents along the southern corridor, the ALTO HSR will not serve the people who will lose the most by its creation.

We ask the following questions, which remain unanswered:

1. Where is the business case to justify this massive financial undertaking?
2. What evidence do you have of demand for the ALTO HSR, and how do you measure ridership projections?
3. Why has the 401 corridor, a more viable and cost-effective option, not been considered? Why is a stop in Kingston not being considered to ensure a long-term local economic benefit to the region should the HSR move forward. Otherwise, the HSR greatly impacts the region from residents, land and infrastructure with no local consideration of economic impacts.
4. Who, in fact, will benefit from this project, and how will our rural communities fare in comparison?

We respectfully urge you to reconsider this project, halt any further development plans, and engage in a comprehensive consultation process with rural municipalities. There needs to be a re-evaluation of the project's feasibility, environmental impacts, and most importantly, its value to the people it is intended to serve.

We are not opposed to high-speed rail in principle, but we demand that it be designed in a way that benefits all Canadians equitably—without sacrificing the livelihoods and way of life of our rural communities. As Mayors/Reeves, we speak on behalf of 215,000 residents in our region.

We copy this letter to the following officials for their awareness and action:

- **Steve MacKinnon, Federal Minister of Transportation**
- **All Federal Members of Parliament (MPs)** representing the proposed Southern Corridor

We trust that our concerns will be taken seriously, and we look forward to a response that reflects the interests of our municipalities and the people we represent.

Yours sincerely,



**John Logel**  
Mayor of Alnwick/Haldimand Township



**Claire Kennelly**  
Mayor of Tyendinaga



**Jim Harrison**  
Mayor of City of Quinte West



**John Wise**  
Mayor of Stone Mills Township



**Arie Hoogenboom**  
Mayor of Rideau Lakes Township



**Karen Jennings**  
Reeve of Township of Montague



*Ron Vandewal*

**Ron Vandewal**

Mayor of South Frontenac Township



*Michael Cameron*

**Michael Cameron**

Mayor of Merrickville-Wolford



*Robin Jones*

**Robin Jones**

Mayor of the Village of Westport



*Brant Burrow*

**Brant Burrow**

Mayor of Elizabethtown-Kitley



*Stephen Fournier*

**Stephen Fournier**

Reeve of Drummond/North Elmsley



*Corinna Smith-Gatcke*

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Mayor of Township Leeds and the Thousand Islands

