

Ministry of Transportation
Transportation Policy Branch
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Ministère des Transports
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June 23, 2023

Carrie McIntosh
City of Hamilton
carrie.mcintosh@hamilton.ca

Re: Safety Framework for Urban and Regional Rail Transit

Dear Carrie:

Further to the email from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) on August 31, 2022, I am writing to update you on the status of our work to develop a provincial safety framework for urban and regional rail in Ontario.

MTO has now procured the consulting services of Ernst and Young (“EY”) to provide recommendations to the province on key elements that would be required in a provincial safety framework. A major component of this work will be consulting with stakeholders. It is anticipated that EY will begin work shortly and that the first of two rounds of consultations with stakeholders, including the City of Hamilton, will occur in July. You will receive an email from EY with more details prior to the planned consultation dates to invite you to participate.

The government is committed to safety across Ontario's transportation network and taking this important next step to improve oversight. As a valued partner, we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the continued safety of rail operations in Ontario.

If you have any questions in the interim, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Katie De Palma
Director, Transportation Policy Branch
Ministry of Transportation

Attachment: Previous Letter

Ministry of Transportation
Transportation Policy Branch
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August 31, 2022

Carrie McIntosh
City of Hamilton
carrie.mcintosh@hamilton.ca

Re: Safety Framework for Urban and Regional Rail Transit

Dear Carrie:

As you are aware, Ontario's rail network is expanding into new technologies, service types, and delivery models, particularly as related to passenger rail and rail transit. As rail services expand, Ontario must continue to ensure the safety of these operations for all.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) is reviewing the safety oversight framework for provincial railways. This work encompasses provincial shortlines, the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC), and urban and regional transit systems with rail service (i.e., the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), GO Transit and Union-Pearson Express (Metrolinx), OC Transpo, and ION/Grand River Transit).

MTO has identified a need to update the oversight framework for urban and regional rail transit in Ontario that would better support the province's growing rail network and the diversity of operators. This new framework may include updated legislation and the creation of a regulator to oversee and support safety practices across the sector.

In connection with this, MTO has issued a Request for Services seeking a consulting team that can provide strategic advice about creating a framework that would better support operators to ensure the safe design, construction, operation, and maintenance of urban and regional rail transit in Ontario. It is anticipated that the selected vendor will begin work in late September and that the first round of consultations with stakeholders, including the City of Hamilton, will occur in November 2022.

The government is committed to safety across Ontario's transportation network and taking this important next step to improve oversight. As a valued partner, we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the continued safety of rail operations in Ontario.

We will connect further with you about the project over the next few months. If you have any questions in the interim, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tasneem Essaji
Director, Transportation Policy Branch
Ministry of Transportation