

Resolution – ALTO High Speed Rail

Whereas the proposed ALTO High Speed Rail (HSR) project has been initiated by the Government of Canada and identified as a Project of National Significance as part of a nation-building strategy;

And Whereas Council recognizes that major national transportation infrastructure projects may provide economic and mobility benefits at a regional and national level;

And Whereas the project was not initiated by the Township of Douro-Dummer or requested by its residents, yet the municipality may experience significant impacts depending on the final corridor alignment;

And Whereas ALTO has stated that municipal leaders play an important role in representing the concerns of their residents throughout the planning process;

And Whereas the Township has invited the local Member of Parliament to attend and hear directly from residents regarding concerns related to the proposed corridor, and that invitation has not been accepted;

And Whereas residents have raised concerns regarding potential impacts including the severance of township roads, increased municipal infrastructure costs, impacts to farms and emergency response times, potential land expropriation, including the potential impacts on private property rights, and disruption to rural land use;

And Whereas a significant portion of the preliminary corridor through Douro-Dummer contains environmentally sensitive lands, including areas designated within the Provincial Natural Heritage System, provincially significant wetlands, highly vulnerable aquifers, important white-tailed deer wintering habitat, and habitats supporting rare, threatened, and endangered species;

And Whereas routing High Speed Rail infrastructure within or adjacent to existing transportation corridors may significantly reduce impacts on rural communities, agricultural lands, municipal infrastructure, natural drainage systems, wildlife habitat, and recreational trail networks;

Therefore Be It Resolved

That the Township of Douro-Dummer express its significant concerns regarding any proposed ALTO High Speed Rail alignment through the municipality;

And Further That Council indicate it does not support an alignment through Douro-Dummer at this time unless and until the Government of Canada, ALTO, and the local Member of Parliament provide clear assurances that the concerns raised by residents and Council will be addressed;

And Further That Council strongly encourage the Government of Canada and ALTO to prioritize routing High Speed Rail infrastructure within or adjacent to existing transportation corridors, including provincial highways, wherever possible in order to minimize impacts on rural municipalities;

And Further That the Township request confirmation that any costs associated with road realignments, crossings, infrastructure modifications, emergency access requirements, or other municipal impacts resulting from the project will be fully borne by the Government of Canada and/or the project proponent, and not downloaded onto the municipality or its taxpayers;

And Further That this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Transport, the local Member of Parliament, and ALTO.