



Office of the Warden, C.A.O. & Clerk
Hastings County

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April 8, 2026

Sent via email

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Steve MacKinnon, Minister of Transportation
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
M.P. Shelby Kramp-Neuman
M.P. Chris Malette
M.P.P. Ric Bresee
M.P.P. Tyler Allsopp
Martin Imbleau, President and CEO of Alto
Mayors and Councils of 14 Hastings County Municipalities
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Eastern Ontario Mayors
Eastern Ontario Municipalities
Eastern Ontario First Nations Partners

RE: Hastings County Motion regarding Alto High Speed Rail

At a meeting held on March 26, 2026, Hastings County Council approved the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Claire Kennelly
Seconded by: Councillor Loyde Blackburn

WHEREAS the federal government has identified Alto High Speed Rail as a nation-building project with an estimated cost of \$60-\$90 billion, to deliver faster, more reliable passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS Alto is advancing plans for a high speed passenger rail project between the Quebec City – Toronto corridor, cutting through eastern Ontario; and

WHEREAS there is only one proposed stop across 50,000 square kilometres region, benefitting urban residents at the cost of rural residents and lands; and

WHEREAS portions of the proposed project will traverse and impact eastern Ontario communities, infrastructure, residential and agricultural lands, municipal trails and environmentally sensitive areas, and with no long term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS the closure and/or dead ending of roads will have significant ongoing and unknown costs to municipalities, as well as service delivery and emergency response implications to residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS eastern Ontario municipalities and residents have not received sufficient detailed information regarding potential local impacts, including land use, environmental effects, municipal infrastructure interfaces and long-term financial or operational implications; and

WHEREAS municipal governments are responsible for protecting local interests, ensuring compatibility with existing planning frameworks, as well as safeguarding environmental, community and resident mental health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS the County of Hastings and its member municipalities are actively trying to engage with Alto through a truly meaningful consultation process to understand the impacts of both high speed rail train routes to our residents' lands, trails and businesses; and

WHEREAS the County of Hastings is an eastern Ontario advocacy voice representing 14 municipalities who value and will advocate for the region's beautiful lands that hold deep agricultural and cultural roots, and that are home to our rural and small-urban communities that will be impacted by Alto;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the County of Hastings formally opposes the Alto project in its current form; and

THAT this opposition is based on concerns related to insufficient municipal consultation, unclear rural and small-urban impacts, potential environmental effects and alignments with existing eastern Ontario planning and infrastructure priorities; and

THAT the County of Hastings urge our member municipalities, partners, businesses and residents to share their questions and comments with Alto and federal representatives as part of the engagement process; and

THAT the County of Hastings look to gather detailed information from Alto to more fully understand the project and its impacts across eastern Ontario; and

THAT the County of Hastings advocates that the federal government and Alto fully explore train route options along existing corridors such as via rail and or Highway 401; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Steve MacKinnon, Minister of Transportation, Martin Imbleau, President and CEO of Alto, Mayors and Councils of 14 Hastings County Municipalities, Premier Doug Ford, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Members of Provincial Parliament, Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus Members of Parliament, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Eastern Ontario Mayors, All Eastern Ontario municipalities and Eastern Ontario First Nations partners.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathy Bradley, Clerk and Director of Legislative Services
Hastings County