



OCSI NEWS

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EXCERPT FROM THE ONTARIO THRONE SPEECH ON MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

“Your government understands that if Ontario is to prosper, then individual communities must prosper.

And that provinces must work together to advocate for their shared needs, and raise their voices as one to demand that a great nation must have the capacity to do great things.

Your government understands that infrastructure is the underpinning of our economy, and that if we continue to lag behind then we will never leap forward.

The people of this province are ready to have a serious conversation about the needs of their communities, whether those needs are better roads or stronger bridges, repaired underpasses or accelerated, integrated transit planning.

To build these things and facilitate Ontario's success, your government believes that smart infrastructure investment can no longer be mired in political rhetoric.

Just as the hard-working men and women of this province can no longer afford to waste their time stuck in traffic.

Or be isolated from one another, and the services they need, because their communities are remote, or their funding is unpredictable.

If we continue to argue about the tools this investment will require then we are deaf to the symphony of progress that echoes around us.

The new government is confident that the people of Ontario are willing to participate in a practical discussion of these costs if they can be guaranteed measurable results.

And those results will be found in the increase of our collective productivity, the reduction of our daily commute times and the reduced impact on our climate and natural environment.

But your government also realizes that these are not the hurdles of one city or one province, but a race against time for Canada as a whole.

Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure

Municipal Engineers Association (**MEA**), Municipal Finance Officers' Association (**MFOA**)
Ontario Good Roads Association (**OGRA**), Ontario Public Works Association (**OPWA**)
Ontario Water Works Association (**OWWA**), Water Environment Association of Ontario (**WEAO**)
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Addressing them will require cooperation from all orders of government, and so your government will engage in conversation with its municipal and community partners.

And it will also reach out to its provincial and territorial colleagues to advocate for a national strategy on infrastructure and transit.

It will address the need for improvements to rural roads and bridges, suburban transit, and a solution to the gridlock that threatens to cripple the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

It will address the special transportation needs of Ontario's North and endeavour to improve vital access to the Ring of Fire, and improve the flow of people and goods along our trade corridors to the United States.

Because Ontario cannot evolve if it cannot move.

Your government intends to work with municipalities on other issues, too.

Because communities must be involved and connected to one another.

They must have a voice in their future and a say in their integrated, regional development.”

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Link for the full speech: <http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/news/thronespeech.php?Lang=EN>

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OCSI NEWS is prepared by Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI) as a communication tool on a topic of interest for our member associations and our infrastructure network.

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