



# TOWNSHIP OF ZORRA

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November 8, 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne:

**Re: High Speed Rail  
Planning Advisory Board**

The Township of Zorra is aware the Province is moving ahead with an environmental assessment on a high-speed rail system (HSR) based on recommendations in a report filed by a Special Advisor. The yearlong engagement of the Special Advisor included consultations with private stakeholders, indigenous communities, and the four main station area communities (Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Windsor). However, this engagement process did not include any consultation with potential corridor impacted municipalities. As of yet, the Township of Zorra has not been approached or even contacted regarding this project.

The recommendation to construct a new two-track corridor from Kitchener-Waterloo to London adjacent to the existing Hydro One right-of-way will bisect Zorra Township. The Hydro One corridor is presently farmed and does not impact the municipal road system and for all intents and purposes is benign to the landowners and the municipality. The rail corridor will cross every north-south road in the Township including 13 local roads and two significant Oxford County Roads and split over 50 properties. The corridor will also cross three east-west Township roads. This will impact life for every Zorra resident from movement of farm machinery, daily commutes to and from work and most importantly provision of emergency services.

No municipality in the entire corridor will see disruption of travel and everyday life more than the residents of our municipality. Therefore, it is imperative that Zorra be granted special status, similar to those afforded to indigenous groups, and be represented on all aspects of this project. At this time, the Township has three requests:

1. That a meeting be convened with the Minister of Transportation to establish linkages with MTO and open dialogue for what will likely be a long and complicated environmental assessment process.
2. The Province appoint a municipal representative from the Township to serve on the Planning Advisory Board.

3. The Province provide capacity funding to corridor impacted municipalities in the study area to facilitate engagement on the HSR project. To fully understand and assess all impacts on corridor impacted municipalities, specific expertise across a wide range of disciplines will be required. Tax payers of local municipalities should not be expected to pay for these costs on a project that is provincially and nationally significant.

The Township Council is cognizant of the importance of this project to the Ontario economy. However, the health, safety and well-being of Zorra residents must be respected and attended to in this process and not marginalized for the betterment of Ontario.

Yours truly,



Don MacLeod  
Chief Administrative Officer

Copy to: The Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation  
Mayor Lupton & Member of Council

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