



January 16th, 2023

***Sent via email***

Renée Amilcar, General Manager of Transit Services  
City of Ottawa

Phil Verster, President and CEO  
Metrolinx

Michael Lindsay, President and CEO  
Infrastructure Ontario

**RE: Invitation to attend our emergency town hall – fixing Ontario's LRT-P3 systems**

Ms. Amilcar, Mr. Verster, and Mr. Lindsay:

I write to request your participation in a meeting later this month. It concerns the public-private-partnership (P3) model that has been used to build and maintain light rail transit (LRT) systems in Ottawa and Toronto.

At the moment, residents of both cities are furious. We were told light rail would be a “gamechanger” in [Ottawa](#) and [Toronto](#), but the status of both projects suggest a game has been played on us. While P3 consultants have made millions, our LRT systems are over budget, overdue, or not working properly.

In Ottawa, we see further malfunctions on an LRT touted as ready for a nordic climate, and suitable for the city's needs. Residents of Ottawa pushed for (and won) a provincial public inquiry into the system, and its findings [were damning](#). Residents in Toronto are also asking for public inquiry into the Eglinton Crosstown project given ongoing delays and impacts on residents and small business owners.

I note the following passage of the Ottawa LRT report prepared by Justice Hourigan: “...the P3 model caused or contributed to several of the ongoing difficulties on the project ... the city traditionally had a hands-on leading role in projects, given the lesser role it played under this mode, the city was left in a position where it had limited insight or control over the project.”



**Joel Harden**  
MPP / Député, Ottawa Centre

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From 7:00pm-8:30pm on January 26, we are convening an emergency town hall (online) with transit workers, transit riders, impacted small businesses and municipal decision-makers in Ottawa and Toronto. We expect many questions about the status of P3-LRT projects in our cities, and are requesting your presence to help answer these questions.

We await your reply to see if you and your staff teams can be present at this event.

Yours sincerely,

Joel Harden, MPP for Ottawa Centre

Official Opposition Critic (Transit and Active Transportation)

Jill Andrew, MPP for Toronto St. Paul's

Official Opposition Critic (Culture, Heritage, Women's Social and Economic Opportunity)