

September 10, 2026

Terence Hubbard – President - Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

By electronic submission

Re: Eastern Bridge Project

Dear Mr. Hubbard,

I am writing to advise that the City of Ottawa is requesting the Government of Canada extend the current consultation period and pause consequential decisions or approvals concerning the Eastern Bridge Project until the newly elected Ottawa City Council has taken office and had a reasonable opportunity to consider the matter and establish a formal City position.

In this regard, please be advised that Ottawa City Council, at its meeting of September 9, 2026, considered and approved the following Motion:

Motion No: OCC-2026-85-07

Moved by: Councillor R. King

Seconded by: Mayor M. Sutcliffe

WHEREAS Public Services and Procurement Canada's proposed Eastern Bridge Project includes not only a new interprovincial crossing but modifications to approximately nine kilometres of existing roads, intersections and multi-use pathways along the Montée-Paiement - Aviation Parkway corridor, extending from Autoroute 50 in Gatineau to Highway 417 in Ottawa; and

WHEREAS the project could have significant implications for traffic, truck movements, public transit, commute times, neighbourhood safety and Ottawa's broader transportation network, including the intersections with Hemlock Road, Montreal Road, Ogilvie Road, Highway 174 and Highway 417; and

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WHEREAS decades of discussion about an additional interprovincial crossing have generated deeply held and often opposing views across Ottawa, contributing to consultation fatigue without achieving a broadly supported regional transportation solution; and

WHEREAS the movement of people and goods is a regional issue that requires a coordinated approach and should not result in communities being pitted against one another based on where traffic impacts may be experienced; and

WHEREAS the Eastern Bridge Project must be understood within the context of the National Capital Region's broader and long-term transportation needs, including traffic, truck movements, public transit, existing infrastructure and alternative regional routes and connections; and

WHEREAS Council has previously supported comprehensive, data-driven consideration of alternative regional transportation routes and a coordinated regional transportation planning framework, and any further work should build upon existing studies and Council directions rather than duplicate them; and

WHEREAS the National Capital Commission's Long-Term Integrated Interprovincial Crossings Plan provides a "One Region" framework for the movement of people and goods across the National Capital Region; and

WHEREAS the current consultation concerns the Initial Project Description and represents an early step in a multi-stage impact-assessment and approval process; and

WHEREAS the current federal consultation period closes on October 9, 2026, during Ottawa's municipal election period, limiting the ability of Members of Council to communicate and engage fully through municipal channels and concluding before the newly elected City Council takes office; and

WHEREAS a project requiring significant public investment warrants meaningful municipal and public participation before consequential decisions are made.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council request that the Government of Canada extend the current consultation period and pause consequential decisions or approvals concerning the Eastern Bridge Project until the newly elected Ottawa City Council has taken office and had a reasonable opportunity to consider the matter and establish a formal City position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City staff engage with Public Services and Procurement Canada, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, the National Capital Commission and municipal, provincial and transit partners across the National Capital Region to support a coordinated discussion about the movement of people and goods and ensure that the proposed bridge is considered within the region's broader and long-term transportation needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these discussions build upon existing studies, available transportation data and previous Council directions, including consideration of public transit and regional routes and connections, to avoid duplication and ensure that the work remains relevant to Ottawa's transportation planning regardless of whether the Eastern Bridge Project proceeds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the extended consultation provide affected communities with a meaningful opportunity to understand and comment on the potential impacts and benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk formally submit this resolution through the federal impact-assessment process before the October 9, 2026 deadline, and that staff from Planning, Development and Building Services engage directly with the relevant federal agencies to advance Council's requests, and provide Council with an update on the federal response and recommended next steps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion is not interpreted as Council's final support for or opposition to the Eastern Bridge Project, but as a request for sufficient time, information and regional coordination before consequential decisions are made.

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CS290', with a large loop at the beginning and a trailing flourish.

Caitlin Salter MacDonald
City Clerk