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September 8, 2022

Honourable Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, On
M7Z 1Z8

Dear Minister Mulroney:

RE: Highway 138 and Regional Safety Concerns

I am writing to you today to echo the concerns raised by our neighbouring municipalities in the Counties of SDG and Akwesasne and advocate for improvements to Highway 138 to make it a safer route for those travelling between our communities and Highway 417.

It is our understanding that the roundabout planned for the intersection at Highway 138 and Headline Road (County Road 44) will begin construction in 2023. This is an important step to improve safety along this corridor and we are encouraged that this project is proceeding. However, the most significant safety risk is the unsafe lane passing that could be mitigated with the implementation of passing lanes in strategic locations. These passing lanes have been identified as an area to improve safety on Highway 138, however, there is no mention of this project in MTO's five-year capital plan. There is also no mention of improvements to Highway 138 in the Draft Transportation Plan for Eastern Ontario. It is our hope that there will be opportunities to consider additional projects in the short term and add Highway 138 passing lane improvements as a priority for our region.

Cornwall has been fortunate to see recent significant investment in our city. Most recent is the interest from Great Wolf Resorts to build a massive indoor water park and tourist attraction that will increase visitors to the entire region. Another notable investment is the recent acquisition by Devcore of a large conference centre formerly known as the NAV Centre. Devcore has indicated their intention to increase residential development on the site as well as build a new waterfront hotel. Cornwall is also well known as a logistics hub with major distribution centres including Walmart and Loblaw/Shoppers Drug Mart which have contributed to increased transport volume on Highway 138. There is an increase in transport vehicles using Highway 138 because of these distribution centres specifically to Ottawa. The above developments, and others soon to be announced, will mean that increased volume will likely be a continuing trend.

A safe transportation network is critical to the ongoing economic sustainability of our region. We want to continue to work with our neighbouring municipalities and MTO to provide input and support for maintaining a safe transportation network. I am urging your office to move the detailed design work for the passing lanes into a priority position within the Eastern Region's

five-year capital plans. Our working group will continue to meet and advocate for these necessary improvements, and we would be willing to provide support and work collaboratively with MTO to make Highway 138 a safer route for passenger and commercial transport.

Thank you for your continued support for our region. If you would like to discuss this matter further, I would be pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glen Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glen" and last name "Grant" clearly distinguishable.

Glen Grant
Mayor, City of Cornwall

Cc Nolan Quinn, MPP
 Eric Duncan, MP
 Grand Chief Abram Benedict, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
 Carma Williams, Warden for the Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry