



February 3, 2023

The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Federal Minister of Transportation

Sent via email: omar.alghabra@parl.gc.ca

Dear County Honourable Omar Alghabra:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held January 31, 2023 adopted the following:

12.2.8 VIA Rail Cancellations

WHEREAS residents in the City of Brantford may choose to live in Brantford because of its convenient location in Southwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS many residents commute to their places of employment outside of The City of Brantford, many of them relying on rail transit; and

WHEREAS in August 2021 the federal Minister of Transportation visited Brantford Via station and announced that the federal government would be pursuing opportunities to enhance passenger rail services in southwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS in August 2022 the federal government announced they would be exploring options to improve passenger rail frequencies, on-time performance, and shorten travel times in Southwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS since 2020 a number of passenger rail lines have been suspended or cancelled leaving residents of Brantford with fewer commuting options; and

WHEREAS there is a need for commuter rail travel options for City residents that depart from the downtown Brantford rail station; and

WHEREAS pre-pandemic line 82 served residents in Southwestern Ontario commuting to employment in downtown Toronto. Line 82 began in London at 6:30 am, stopped in Brantford at 7:30 and arrived at Toronto's union station at 8:30 making it very popular with commuters residing in London, Woodstock and Brantford; and

WHEREAS Via Rail has reinstated a number of Ontario rail lines that were suspending during the pandemic, not including Line 82; and

WHEREAS the announcement reinstating Line 82 has been unreasonably delayed, causing a great deal of angst and anxiety for rail line commuters; and

WHEREAS line 82 is an important transportation link for many residents in Southwestern Ontario and also for builders considering residential developments in the northern section of Brantford's downtown area, which developments are an important component of the downtown renewal action plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Council of The Corporation of The City of Brantford respectfully CALLS UPON the Government of Canada to resume, in good faith, investigations into opportunities to enhance passenger rail services in southwestern Ontario; and
- B. THAT the Council of The Corporation of The City of Brantford respectfully CALLS UPON Via Rail to reinstate line number 82 immediately; and
- C. THAT the Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to The Federal Minister of Transportation, The Honourable Omar Alghabra, The City of Brantford Member of Parliament, The Honourable Larry Brock, Via Rail Canada and to each municipality impacted by the route cancellations, namely The City of London and The City of Woodstock.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier
Acting Clerk, cgauthier@brantford.ca

cc MP Larry Brock
VIA Rail Canada
Ontario Municipalities