



October 13, 2022

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Government Policy Branch
777 Bay St., 13th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

Sent via email submission.

RE: Proposed Minister's Regulations and the Proposed LGIC Regulation to Prescribe Provincial Priorities, related to the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022

On behalf of the Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA), we would like to provide the following written comments in response to the proposed regulations and provincial priorities related to the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act (2022)* on the Ontario Regulatory Registry for public comment (22-MMAH014 and 22-MMAH015).

The Ontario Road Builders' Association is proud to represent the road building sector in Ontario. Our members build and maintain the majority of provincial and municipal roads, bridges, transit and transportation infrastructure across the province. The road building sector directly and indirectly employs approximately 56,000 workers at peak season and impacts all Ontarians.

We are pleased to see the government's continued commitment to enhance Ontario's infrastructure; We share in this vision. The proposed regulations related to the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act (2022)* will grant mayors of Toronto and Ottawa with the ability to partner with the province to advance priorities that will unlock housing opportunities, such as transportation infrastructure. In particular, priority 2 of the proposed LGIC regulation states: "*The construction and maintenance of infrastructure to support accelerated supply and availability of housing including, but not limited to, transit, roads, utilities and servicing.*"

These regulations will also grant the head of council (HOC) in Toronto and Ottawa with the ability to hire and dismiss heads of divisions, assign functions and appoint chairs, veto bylaws that could interfere with the prescribed provincial priorities and new powers and duties related to the municipal budget.

These changes will help Toronto and Ottawa advance work on shared municipal-provincial priorities by reducing red-tape and empowering mayors to direct items to council and propose the municipal budget. ORBA strongly supports prioritizing infrastructure that will help unlock housing potential in the GTA and Ottawa region. An integrated, multimodal transportation system will help reduce congestion and help meet the government's goal of 1.5 million new residential units by 2031. Highways and transit options can unlock land to be used for housing to help meet priority 1 in the proposed LGIC regulation, and connect communities across the province.

Transportation infrastructure projects, such as the major subway expansion in Toronto and Highway 401 improvements are an opportunity for further municipal and provincial cooperation in building a transportation network that helps ensure that we have affordable and diverse housing options and the necessary employment space to meet the needs of the new homebuyer, residents, and businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please do not hesitate to contact Brianna Puigmarti, Senior Policy Advisor at Brianna.puigmarti@orba.org with any questions regarding this submission.