



Coalition for Better Rail

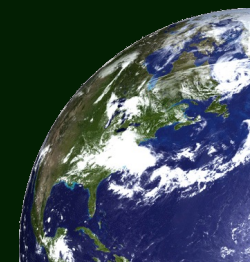
WHAT WE SUPPORT

Canadian solutions that will improve passenger and freight rail while remaining accessible, affordable, and achievable.

OUR COMMITMENT

Independent, evidence-based advocacy for rail infrastructure that delivers real benefits to the communities it passes through and the economy it connects.

<https://beyondalto.ca>





Who We Are

A self-organized, volunteer steering committee

www.beyondalto.ca

Our vision is for better rail — reliable and more sustainable — that works with communities, not against them, while helping to strengthen and grow the national economy.



Agenda



Introduce Coalition for Better Rail

Where ALTO Is

Where We Are

Alternatives to ALTO

Q&A





Where ALTO Is – Cadence Consortium

- No credible: construction costs or schedules; ridership forecasts; revenue models; operating costs; risk and opportunity analysis; Cadence consortium agreement prior to end of consultation April 24.
- ALTO staffing budget: 36 communications staff, 2 environmental scientists; 42 for land negotiations, 10 for environmental and regulatory issues
- Air Canada CEO and President Michael Rousseau will retire by September
- ALTO representatives are quitting due to backlash and questions about project
- People starting to ask questions





Was Ford Bought Off?

CBC March 9: the mayors of Kingston and South Frontenac called for ALTO high-speed rail to be built along Highway 401 and add a stop in Kingston.

CTV News March 16: Premier wants high-speed rail built along Ontario's Hwy. 401 corridor

Maybe a stop in Kingston

March 30 Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build

- Development Charges Reduction
- Harmonized HST Rebate on New Homes
- Toronto Waterfront East Transit
- Transit Projects in Toronto and Hamilton
- ALTO High Speed Rail

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1007226/details-of-the-canada-ontario-partnership-to-build>





Where We Are

Open Letter to Napanee Beaver

We are deeply concerned about the impact of ALTO's proposed High Speed Rail (HSR) on **Lennox and Addington County** - people, homes and property, towns, businesses, agriculture, our watershed and water supply, and on all aspects of the environment.



Open Letter to Napanee Beaver 2



Lennox and Addington
Stewardship Council
Friends of the Salmon River
Robert Storring Century 21
Tamworth Veterinary Services
Hannah Funeral Homes
Donna Poirier, CPA
Rogues Hollow Antiques
Matthews Studio
Doseger Real Estate Group
Newburgh Pharmacy
Sage Restoration
Bar Electric
Reinink Family Farms
Neillcrest Farms
Vanness Automotive
S'Cooper's
Whalen Excavating
Book Shop Annex

Stone Mills Storage
Stone Mills Landscape
Products
Robert Wright Books
Tamworth Bookshop
Roxanne's Hairstyling
McCormick's Country Store
Ivy's Journey Equestrian
Centre
Kelsey's Christmas Tree Farm
Tamworth Hardware
A1 Corner Restaurant
The Sheep Shelf
PharmaWell Drugmart
Triple K Charolais
The Tamworth Hotel
Red School Farm
Newburgh Clinic
Campbell Well Drilling

Chris Carter Construction
Sutton Farms (Nacona)
The Blue Door Bakery and
Café
TCO Agromart Ltd.
Sheila's Greenhouse
Dave Way Farms
River Valley Farms
George Benn & Sons
Construction
Barking Goat Farms
Mike's Tire Service
NNS Carpentry
St. Isidore Farm
Saving Our Farmland
Global Insulating Solutions



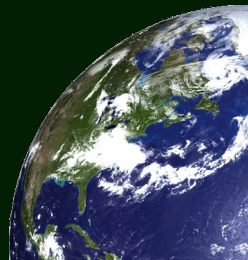
Open Letter to Napanee Beaver 3



Smith Brother's Farms
Tamworth Medical Centre
High Noon Painting
Old Hickory Buildings
Eric Smith Farm
Calver Cattle Co.
Wemp and Smith
Construction
Jim Spinks Motors
Gillan Design & Home
Renovations
Brenda's Salon
Cheryl Furlong Real Estate
Furlong Contracting
Weese Landscaping
Matthews Farm
Stienburg Farm
Dan Misek Carpentry

Marlin Farm, Enterprise
Stinson Studios
ATC Farms
Clarmac Farms
Custom Tree Service
Don Drones On
The Quartermaster's Store
Frontenac Tree Service
Domenico Electric
Bee Queen
Hawk Vale Antiques
Friends of the Napanee River
Lucky Dollar
Stone Mills Family Market
Enjoy Travel, Yarker
Burns Farms
The Stone Corner Café

Jenn Fitzpatrick, ReMax
Realtor
Cutie Cuts Pet Grooming
Studio
G.S. Electric, Tamworth
E Z Well Drilling
Stone Mills Marketplace
H Mann Heat & Cool
Douglas Banks Photographic
Equipment Repairs
Aligned Administration
Storring Septic Service
Pete's Pro Painting
Pro Blind Guys
Maleska Building Services





Press Coverage

Le Journal De Montreal

Toronto Star

Kingston Whig Standard

National Post

TVO Today

CBC National At Issue

Ipolitics

CBC News

CBC News Ottawa Morning

Lanark Leeds Today

Kawartha Now

Today's Northumberland

CTV News

The Globe and Mail

Quinte News

Rearview Mirror

Global News

School of Cities, U of T

Napanee Beaver

<https://citizenresearch.ca/in-the-news-2026/>

What You Can Do

Letter to Local Newspaper

Citizen Research =

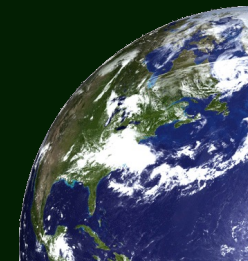
<https://citizenresearch.ca>

Coalition for Better Rail -

<https://beyondalto.ca>

Savestonemills -

<https://www.savestonemills.ca>





Stakeholder Statements

AGRICULTURE AND LAND USE

National Farmers Union (NFU)

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)

OFA & Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA)

Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA)

Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO)

National Farmers Union – Ontario (NFU-O)

Ontario Farmland Trust

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)

Trans Canada Trail

Rideau Trail Association

Friends of the Cataraqui Trail





Stakeholder Statements

ECOLOGY & FRESHWATER SCIENCE

Wildlife Preservation Canada

Think Turtle Conservation Initiative

Dr. Steven Cooke & Colleagues, Carleton University

Rideau Waterway Land Trust (RWLT)

Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS)

Kingston Field Naturalists (KFN)

Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Collaborative

Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council

Sydenham Lake Association

Friends of the Salmon River

Friends of the Napanee River

Watersheds Canada

Kennebec Lake Association





Stakeholder Statements

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Lower Trent Conservation (LTC)

Quinte Conservation

TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY

Corridor Train Alliance (CTA)

MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC)

BILL C-15 & DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Ecojustice (lead signatory)

Human Rights Watch

<https://citizenresearch.ca/stakeholder-statements/>





What About Your Organizations?

List the clubs, organizations you belong to. Phone or write a letter, ask them to make a statement.

Citizen Research - <https://citizenresearch.ca/stakeholder-statements/>

Coalition for Better Rail - <https://beyondalto.ca>

Savestonemills - <https://www.savestonemills.ca>



Political & Governmental Positions



<https://citizenresearch.ca/political-positions/>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NEWS 2026

NEWS OLDER

RESOURCES

WHO TO CONTACT

STAKEHOLDER STATEMENTS

POLITICAL POSITIONS

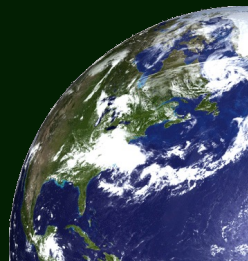
DOWNLOADS

VIDEO + AUDIO

← altohsrcitizenresearch.ca

→ [Government Documents](#)

Community map (not the ALTO map): highspeedrailmap.ca ↗





Petitions

Petitions bearing on ALTO are currently before the House of Commons. Four are sponsored by MP Scott Reid of Lanark–Frontenac opposed to the project. As of April 17th, they carried 13,788 signatures.

One, sponsored by MP Mark Gerretsen of Kingston and the Islands, asks that if ALTO proceeds, Kingston receive a station and the route be pushed further south. It carries 359 signatures.

This is a ratio of 38 to 1.

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Search?parl=42%2C43%2C44%2C45&category=All&text=High-speed+rail>



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus



103 small urban and rural municipalities across eastern Ontario.

The EOWC formally opposes the ALTO project in its current form

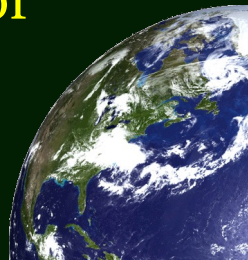
<https://www.kawartha411.ca/2026/03/24/eastern-ontario-wardens-caucus-opposes-alto-high-speed-rail-project-in-its-current-form/>

Formal Resolutions Opposing Current Plans

Townships of: Addington Highlands, Beckwith, Central Frontenac, Drummond/North Elmsley, Faraday, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, Lanark Highlands, North Frontenac, Rideau Lakes, South Frontenac, Stone Mills, Tay Valley

City of Belleville, City of Brockville, Town of Perth, Municipality of Trent Hills, Municipality of Tweed, Municipality of Tyendinaga, County of Hastings

<https://citizenresearch.ca/political-positions/>





<https://melanieinsaskatchewan.substack.com/p/the-train-youll-pay-for>

The Train You'll Pay For

Nation-building for some. Invoice for the rest.

 MELANIE IN SASKATCHEWAN
APR 03, 2026

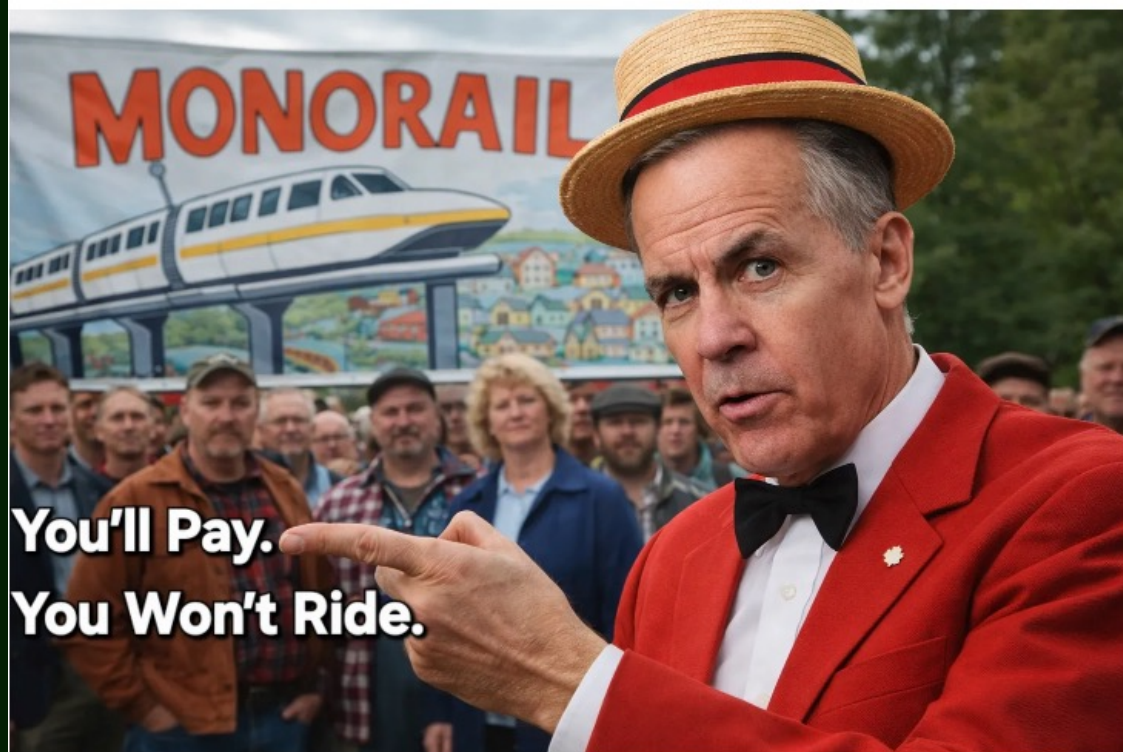
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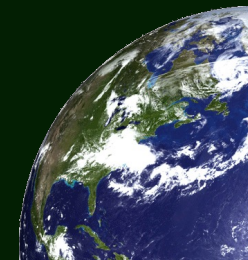
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Share

...



**You'll Pay.
You Won't Ride.**





Consider Options

ALTO assumptions:

1. A 300 km/hour train speed is essential. (No, it isn't).
2. We have to steer clear of CN and CP. (No, we don't).

Intelligent Project Planning Must Focus On:

What problem(s) are we trying to solve?

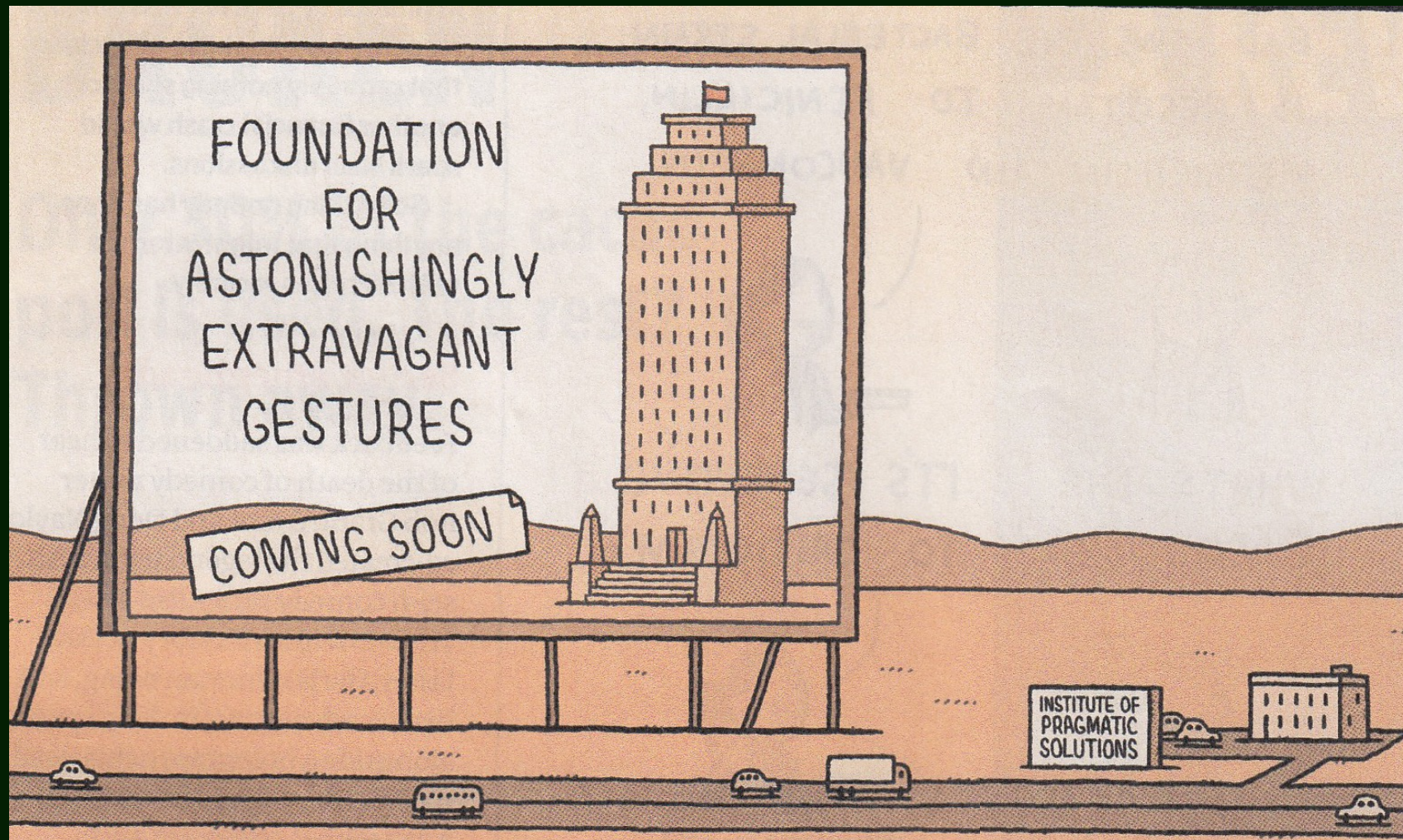
Via Rail owns only 3% of the tracks

What resources do we have?

What is our timeline?

What will provide the most benefits for the most people?





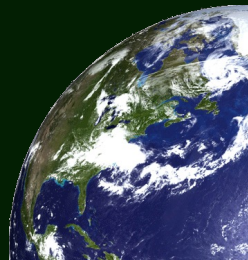
Q & A



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Savestonemills -
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What Can You Do?

Democracy doesn't just happen at elections

Make your opinion known

Join with others

Donate to groups

Write letters to local newspapers

Contact MPs, MPPs, local councils

Talk to your neighbors

Reach out to groups you are in for their stance.



<https://citizenresearch.ca/advocacy/>

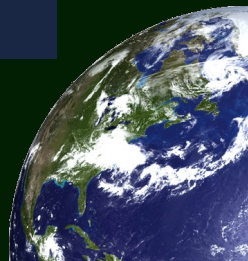


ADVOCACY RESOURCE | COMMUNITY ACTION

Why ALTO Needs Reconsideration — Beyond Politics

The case for reconsidering ALTO does not depend on who wins the next election. It rests on structural economic, fiscal, and historical realities that apply regardless of which party is in government — and that the evidence clearly supports.

ALTO HSR Citizen Research Initiative | April 2026 | For community advocates, councils, and elected representatives





Social Change

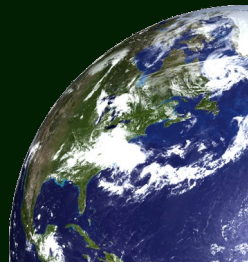
The first step to positive social change is the willingness to make a fuss.



Jim Larkin 1876-1947

The rich and powerful only seem above us because we are on our knees.

Let Us Rise.





We Are Rising

ALTO proponents are hoping we will give up.
This is a marathon, not a sprint.

