



PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS | Inverary Feb. 18 & Perth March 4 High-speed rail project: Your voice counts

A major new high-speed rail project, known as ALTO, is currently under discussion in Ontario and Quebec. One of the two proposed routes runs closer to Kingston and, if adopted, will impact our area. Such a project can be beneficial for our lake community, allowing fast, convenient travel to major city hubs. It will also have a major impact on the environment. Your voice is important; and plan to attend the public consultations to be held in Inverary on February 18 or in Perth on March 4.



An ambitious plan

It is designed to be Canada's first fully high-speed passenger rail network. The project spans roughly 1,000 km, using dedicated, electrified tracks to allow fast, modern trains to travel nearly twice as rapidly as today's VIA Rail service. Alto envisions trains reaching speeds up to 300 km/h, connecting cities from Toronto to Québec City. Estimated costs range from \$60 billion to \$120 billion, making it the largest infrastructure projects in the country's history. Alto is a Crown corporation.

A route to watch

The proposed alignment includes stops in Toronto, Peterborough, Ottawa, Montréal, Laval, Trois-Rivières, and Québec City. Some sections may go through sensitive natural areas, including the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, raising questions about environmental impacts and local landscapes. Field studies and impact assessments are already underway. The Ottawa ↔ Montreal segment, covering about 200 km and extending across the Ontario-Québec border, will be the first segment built, with construction targeted to begin in 2029, regardless of the decision reached on the exact alignment further west through Ontario.

Northern or Southern route possibilities

References to the "northern" vs "southern" route relate to the possible corridors under study in early route planning; no final route has been approved. Alto will be engaging in public consultation throughout 2026 and will use that feedback and engineering studies to choose the preferred alignment.

Supporters versus critics

Supporters say Alto will cut travel times, reduce emissions, and boost the economy. Critics highlight the high cost, potential impact on communities, and effects on natural areas. Whether you're excited about faster rail or concerned about the environ-

ment, now is the time to make your voice heard. Public engagement on the project begins this spring.

OUR CHANCE TO WEIGH IN

Alto is holding public consultations from January through March 2026 to gather input on the route and its impacts. These consultations include online sessions and surveys, virtual information meetings and in-person open houses across Ontario and Québec.

The first in-person session will be held in Inverary at the Storrington Lions Club on February 18. Two sessions: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The next session will be organized in Perth at the Perth Lions Club on March 4th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, with online options available beforehand.

Residents can see proposed maps, ask questions, and provide feedback.

For details, visit the project's website, altotrain.ca, and search: public consultations.

There are already local Facebook groups discussing possible impacts and views, such as 'Safe South Frontenac' and 'Alto train southern route "discussion forum"'. And, here is a link to a recent article in The Kingston Wig Standard to bring you up to speed: <https://www.thewhig.com/news/south-frontenac-rejects-high-speed-rail-supports-kingston-location>

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