

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Capital 2020 Calls for Action on Ottawa-Gatineau LRT**

**OTTAWA** – The Capital 2020 Task Force members today reacted to the decision by the Federal Government to rescind the Canadian Transportation Agency’s ruling, ordering the City to repair the Prince of Wales Bridge.

“Without this decision and, in the absence of the City repairing the bridge within 12 months, the CTA ruling would have obliged it to discontinue the rail line and bridge, putting at risk its future use as an LRT link between Ottawa and Gatineau,” stated Ali Torabi, Chair of the Task Force’s LRT Subcommittee, Architect and Director at Ed Brunet and Associates.

Maintaining the future viability of utilizing the Prince of Wales Bridge is critical. While the Task Force would have preferred to see the Ottawa-Gatineau LRT project included in the approved plan for Stage 2 LRT, the volunteer body of local business and community leaders is calling for the planning and construction of this important initiative to be undertaken urgently as a stand-alone project.

The funding announcements in Federal Budget 2019 for the rehabilitation of the Chaudière and MacDonald-Cartier bridges, the replacement of the Alexandria bridge and the commitment to address the need for an additional interprovincial crossing is a recognition that the current infrastructure is inadequate to carry close to 150,000 vehicles and 9,000 pedestrians and cyclists each day and clearly action must be taken.

“The fact is that an LRT link between Gatineau and Ottawa is a very different project than those that make up the three stages of the Ottawa’s Light Rail Transit,” stated Capital 2020 Task Force Chair Doug McLarty, Partner at MNP, LLP. “This is a project that involves 2 cities, 2 provincial governments, as well as the federal government and therefore the funding, planning and construction of this important and environmentally sustainable transportation link needs to commence independently and on a priority basis,” added McLarty.

The Capital 2020 Task Force is focused on successful ‘city-building’ and aims to be a leader and catalyst that promotes a favorable business climate, improves the quality of life, and supports the orderly growth, development and revitalization of the National Capital Region, including on both sides of the Ottawa River.

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