

Corporation of the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley

April 13, 2026 Session

RES. NO. 140-26

Moved by:

R. Smith

Seconded by:

H. Oosterhof

Whereas the Federal Government has identified the ALTO high-speed rail project as a nation-building initiative, with an estimated cost of \$60 to \$90 billion, intended to deliver faster and more reliable passenger rail service;

And Whereas ALTO is advancing plans for a high-speed passenger rail corridor between Quebec City and Toronto, with proposed routes traversing eastern Ontario, including areas that may impact the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley;

And Whereas there is currently only one proposed stop within Eastern Ontario which will result in limited direct benefit to rural municipalities while disproportionately impacting their lands and communities;

And Whereas portions of the proposed project may affect local infrastructure, residential and agricultural lands, municipal trails, and environmentally sensitive areas within the Township, without clear evidence of long-term economic benefit to the municipality;

And Whereas the potential closure, realignment, or dead-ending of municipal roads could create significant and ongoing financial burdens for the Township, while also impacting service delivery and emergency response times for residents and businesses;

And Whereas the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley has not received sufficient detailed information regarding local impacts, including land use planning considerations, environmental effects, infrastructure interfaces, and long-term financial or operational implications;

And Whereas municipal governments have a responsibility to protect local interests, ensure compatibility with existing planning frameworks, safeguard environmental integrity, community well-being, and residents' quality of life;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley formally opposes the ALTO high-speed rail project in its current form;

And That this opposition is based on concerns including insufficient municipal consultation, unclear impacts on rural and small-urban communities, potential

environmental consequences, and misalignment with existing municipal and regional planning priorities;

And That Council calls upon the Federal Government and ALTO to undertake meaningful consultation with affected municipalities, including the provision of detailed, transparent, and timely information regarding all potential impacts;

And That the Township encourages residents, businesses, and community stakeholders to share their questions and concerns with ALTO and federal representatives as part of the engagement process;

And That the Township advocates for the Federal Government and ALTO to prioritize and fully explore alternative routing options along existing transportation corridors, including those associated with VIA Rail and/or Highway 401, to minimize disruption to rural communities and lands;

And That a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Transport, the President and CEO of ALTO, local Members of Parliament, the Premier of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus, all EOWC municipalities, and Eastern Ontario First Nations partners.

- Carried
- Lost
- Tabled



Brant Burrow, Mayor