

January 9, 2025

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Motion regarding Opposition to Provincial Legislation on Cycling Lanes and Support for Municipal Authority in Transportation Planning

At their Regular Meeting of Council on January 8, 2025, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced legislation requiring provincial approval for new cycling lanes;

AND WHEREAS this legislation would compel municipalities to demonstrate that proposed cycling lanes will not negatively impact vehicle traffic;

AND WHEREAS cycling infrastructure is crucial for environmental transportation, road safety, and public health, and provincial oversight in this matter represents an unwarranted intrusion into municipal authority;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Aylmer is evolving an active transportation plan to enhance walking and cycling infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has strongly criticized this proposed legislation as a "significant overreach" into municipal jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS AMO has stated that none of its 444 member municipalities were consulted or shown evidence justifying the province's proposed veto power over new bike lanes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Town of Aylmer strongly opposes the proposed provincial legislation governing bicycle lanes and affirms its support for maintaining municipal jurisdiction over cycling infrastructure decisions.

2. That the Town of Aylmer endorses the AMO's position that municipalities are better positioned than the Ministry of Transportation to make decisions about local transportation matters based on local knowledge and community input.

3. That the Town of Aylmer calls on the Government of Ontario to withdraw the proposed legislation and respect the established authority of municipalities to make informed decisions about local transportation needs, including the implementation of cycling lanes.

4. That the Town of Aylmer reaffirms its commitment to its transportation plan and the continued development of safe, environmentally friendly, efficient cycling infrastructure for the benefit of all residents.

5. That the Town Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, the Member of Provincial Parliament representing constituencies within the Elgin-Middlesex-London region, to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca) and all Municipalities in Ontario.

6. That the Town of Aylmer calls upon municipalities across Ontario to adopt similar resolutions in defense of local decision-making authority and sustainable, efficient and environmentally friendly transportation planning.

Thank you,

Owen Jaggard

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk | Town of Aylmer

46 Talbot Street West, Aylmer, ON N5H 1J7

519-773-3164 Ext. 4913 | Fax 519-765-1446

ojaggard@town.aylmer.on.ca | www.aylmer.ca

CC:

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org

Hon. Rob Flack rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca

All municipalities