

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Minister Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Ministry of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Sarkaria,

Re: OPPI Feedback on ERO 019-9438: Updates to the Ontario Transit-Supportive Guidelines

On behalf of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), we are pleased to provide input on the Ministry's proposed updates to Transit-Supportive Guidelines.

OPPI is the recognized voice of the planning profession in Ontario. With more than 6,000 members, OPPI serves as both the Professional Institute and regulator of Registered Professional Planners (RPP) in the province. Our members work across the planning spectrum for developers, consulting firms, municipal governments and within the Ontario Public Service, other community agencies, and academic institutions. They work across a geographically diverse cross-section of Ontario in communities of all size. Importantly, a large sub-component of our members work specifically in the field of transportation planning.

OPPI is supportive of the direction, scope, and quality of the draft Guidelines. The document reflects many principles of effective planning practice and recognizes the important relationship between land use planning, transportation planning, urban design, and community development.

We commend the Province for advancing a comprehensive framework that promotes complete, mixed-use communities supported by a range of complementary transportation options. The Guidelines appropriately recognize the connections between transportation infrastructure, land use patterns, housing, public spaces, and community well-being. The emphasis on creating complete communities supporting transportation equity, accommodating both urban and rural contexts and improving transportation system quality aligns with established planning principles and supports the development of more resilient and livable communities.

As the Province moves toward finalizing the Guidelines, consideration should be given to their alignment with recent legislative and regulatory changes affecting the planning system. Some of the outcomes encouraged by the Guidelines may rely on planning tools that have subsequently been modified through recent provincial initiatives, such as Bill 98. Reconciling the final document with the current legislative framework will provide greater clarity for municipalities, practitioners, and other interested parties responsible for implementation.

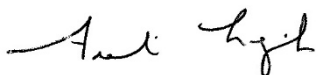
While the document is appropriately focused on transit-supportive development, many of the principles it advances have application across the wider transportation system. To strengthen

the Guidelines, we recommend that the Province review policies that focus specifically on the relationship between transit and land use and consider reframing them to recognize the integrated relationship between transportation and land use planning. This would acknowledge the role of parking, goods movement, road networks, and emerging mobility options in creating complete communities, while ensuring the Guidelines remain applicable across Ontario's diverse urban, suburban, and rural contexts.

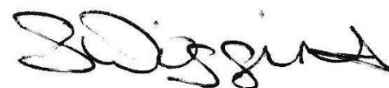
While the Guidelines provide strong policy direction, they would benefit from additional implementation support. OPPI encourages the Province to consider developing a companion guide that presents the key concepts and benefits of transit-supportive and transportation-supportive planning in a more accessible and publicly digestible format. Such a resource could help build broader understanding of integrated transportation and land use planning while supporting municipalities, community organizations, and residents in advancing these objectives. OPPI would welcome opportunities to support the Province in the development of resources of this nature, drawing on our experience developing practice guidance for the planning profession.

Overall, OPPI is supportive of the objectives of the proposed Guidelines and encourages the Province to continue integrating these principles throughout Ontario's broader planning and transportation policy framework. The document represents a positive step toward fostering communities that are connected, accessible, equitable, and sustainable, while recognizing the diverse needs of municipalities across the province. If you are interested, we would be pleased to meet with you to discuss our recommendations. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us at (647) 326-2328 or by email at executivedirector@ontarioplanners.ca.

Sincerely,



Andria Leigh, MCIP, RPP, Dipl.M.M.
Chair, OPPI



Susan Wiggins, CAE, Hon. IDC
Executive Director, OPPI