



July 29, 2026

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building, Room 28, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1
Sent Via Email: Premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), representing 110 municipalities across Northeastern Ontario, I would like to thank you and your government for the continued investments in improving transportation infrastructure across Northern Ontario. We recognize the significant progress made on Highway 69 over the past two decades and appreciate the Province's ongoing commitment to this important project.

Highway 69 is a critical transportation corridor linking Northern and Southern Ontario. It supports the movement of people, commercial traffic, tourists, emergency services, and the resource industries that contribute significantly to Ontario's economy. Along with Highways 11 and 17, Highway 69 forms an essential component of Ontario's transportation network and is vital to the economic prosperity and safety of Northern Ontario.

While the progress to date is appreciated, our Board continues to receive questions from municipalities, businesses, and residents regarding the status of the remaining sections of Highway 69. There is a shared interest in understanding the Province's plans for completing the four-laning of the corridor and the anticipated timelines for future construction.

FONOM recognizes that major transportation projects require long-term planning, significant investment, and close collaboration with Indigenous communities, municipalities, regulatory agencies, and industry partners. We appreciate the complexity of delivering a project of this magnitude and the many factors that can influence its progress. Our request is intended to better understand the Province's long-term vision for completing Highway 69 and to ensure our member municipalities have accurate, up-to-date information to share with their residents, businesses, and local industries.

Accordingly, FONOM respectfully requests a comprehensive update on the progress of Highway 69, including the current status of the remaining sections to be four-laned, construction activities currently underway, planned future phases, and the Province's anticipated timelines for completing the corridor. We also recognize that projects of this magnitude can encounter complex challenges and would appreciate an overview of any factors influencing progress, including environmental approvals, Indigenous consultation, property acquisition, procurement, and other considerations.

Our Board believes that receiving this information will assist municipalities in responding to questions from residents, businesses, and industry while reinforcing the Province's commitment to improving one of Ontario's most important transportation corridors.

Recognizing that some aspects of the remaining Highway 69 project may involve confidential procurement, property acquisition, Indigenous consultations, or other commercially sensitive matters, FONOM is prepared to work with the Province to ensure those discussions remain confidential. Should it be necessary, members of the FONOM Executive would be willing to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) or any other confidentiality agreements the Province deems appropriate to receive a more detailed briefing on the Province's plans and anticipated timelines. Our objective is not to make confidential information public, but rather to better understand the project's direction, support the Province's efforts, and provide informed responses to the municipalities and residents we represent.

If possible, we would welcome an opportunity for officials from the Ministry of Transportation to provide a strategic briefing to the FONOM Board at an upcoming meeting. Should a more detailed discussion be appropriate, we would also welcome the Executive's participation in an in-camera briefing under the confidentiality provisions outlined above.

Premier, FONOM greatly values the positive working relationship we have developed with your government on transportation matters. Our recent discussions regarding Highways 11 and 17 have demonstrated the importance of open communication between the Province and Northern municipalities. We believe a similar update on Highway 69 would further strengthen that partnership while providing municipal leaders with accurate, up-to-date information to share with their communities.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving Northern Ontario's transportation infrastructure. Completing Highway 69, along with advancing the four-laning of Highway 11 and multi-laning opportunities along Highway 17, will improve public safety, strengthen Ontario's economy, enhance supply chains, and ensure a safer, more resilient transportation network for generations to come.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Yours,



Dave Plourde, President of FONOM

cc: The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation