

September 8, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford

Re: Federal-Provincial Partnership to Four-Lane Highways 11 and 17

On behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and the 154 municipalities we collectively represent, we are writing following Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent comments in Thunder Bay regarding the importance of four-laning Highways 11 and 17.

The Prime Minister recognized these highways as critical east-west transportation corridors, indicated that multi-laning them is a federal priority, and stated that he would discuss the matter with you.

This builds on our June 16 discussion with you during your visit to Thunder Bay. At that time, NOMA and FONOM raised the long-term modernization and expansion of Highways 11 and 17, and you committed to raising these corridors directly with Prime Minister Carney.

With both governments now recognizing the importance of these highways, there is a clear opportunity to move from discussion to action. FONOM and NOMA respectfully ask Ontario to begin formal discussions with the federal government to establish a jointly funded, phased plan to four-lane Highways 11 and 17.

Highways 11 and 17 are more than provincial highways. Together, they form the primary east-west transportation network across Northern Ontario and are critical to Canada's national transportation and supply chain system. They connect communities and industries, support mining, forestry, manufacturing and tourism, and move workers, essential goods and commercial traffic across the country.

Reliable east-west transportation infrastructure is also important to Canada's economic and national security. These corridors strengthen domestic supply chains, support critical mineral and natural resource development, and provide an important route for the movement of military personnel, equipment and supplies across Canada.

Northern communities have waited too long for a comprehensive solution to the safety, reliability and capacity challenges along these routes. While individual improvements remain important, four-laning Highways 11 and 17 should be the long-term objective.

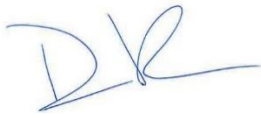
NOMA and FONOM respectfully request that Ontario:

- Confirm four-laning Highways 11 and 17 as a long-term provincial infrastructure priority;
- Begin formal discussions with Prime Minister Carney and the Government of Canada on a federal-provincial funding partnership;
- Develop a jointly funded, phased plan with clear priorities, timelines and measurable progress; and
- Include NOMA, FONOM and Northern municipalities in the development of that plan.

NOMA and FONOM are ready to work with both governments to advance this important initiative. We would welcome the opportunity to meet jointly with you and Prime Minister Carney to discuss next steps.

The opportunity is now before us to establish a generational partnership that will make Northern Ontario's highways safer and more reliable while strengthening Ontario's economy and Canada's national transportation network.

Sincerely,



Dave Plourde
President
Federation of Northern Ontario
Municipalities (FONOM)



Rick Dumas
President
Northwestern Ontario Municipal
Association (NOMA)

Cc:

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario Minister of Transportation
The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Federal Minister of Transport
Northern Ontario Members of Parliament
Northern Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament