



Kathy Lawson/Frances
05/25/2015 01:13 PM

To Lisa Slomke/Frances@Frances
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Resolution in Support of VIA Rail and Letter from Town of St. Marys Mayor

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----- Forwarded by Kathy Lawson/Frances on 25/05/2015 01:13 PM -----



Stacey Wheal
<swheal@town.stmarys.on.ca>
>
15/05/2015 02:33 PM

To Stacey Wheal <swheal@town.stmarys.on.ca>
cc Lorraine Heinbuch <lheinbuch@town.stmarys.on.ca>
Subject Resolution in Support of VIA Rail and Letter from Town of St. Marys Mayor

Please find attached a letter from Town of St. Marys Mayor Al Strathdee, inviting your municipality to join our coalition in support of VIA Rail and *Network Southwest* .
We hope your Council will consider passing the resolution included in the same attachment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Stacey Wheal, Corporate Communications Coordinator
Town of St. Marys – Town Hall
175 Queen St. E., P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON. N4X 1B6
T: 519-284-2340 x 429



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VIA-Rail-Letter and Resolution.pdf



May 15, 2015

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

In the past three decades, passenger rail and intercity bus services have diminished in many Southwestern Ontario communities (please see the attached infographic). While the Ontario government supports GO Transit, High Speed Rail and Metrolinx projects, VIA Rail continues to struggle. Advocacy groups have begun to form in St. Marys, Sarnia and Stratford in response to reductions in VIA Rail service.

The Southwestern Ontario Transportation Alliance (SWOTA) has proposed a practical solution that combines passenger rail and bus services: the *Network Southwest Action Plan*. Now SWOTA needs our support so their message can be heard by all levels of government.

We invite you to join our coalition of municipalities in support of VIA Rail and *Network Southwest*, by passing the attached resolution.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Al Stratthdee, Mayor
Town of St. Marys
519-284-2340 ext. 246

TOWN OF ST. MARYS
P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON. N4X 1B6



		Network Southwest			
Services		1982	2012	2015	2020
Weekday trains each way	London-Brantford-Toronto	10	5	5	7
	London-Stratford-Toronto	5	3	2	6
	Windsor-London	5	4	4 <small>Only 3 on Fridays</small>	5
	Sarnia-London	4	2	1	3
	Niagara Falls-Toronto	3	2	1	5
Intercity Bus Routes		25+	21	7	24
Communities Served		200+	182	52	100+

\$400 million over five years is...

1 km

Of new Toronto subway tunnel

2.8%

Of Ontario's \$14bn infrastructure pledge

2

Timbits® per citizen per week

12 km

Of six-lane toll highway

www.swota.ca/network-southwest



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Figure 1 – Infographic by the Southwestern Ontario Transportation Alliance

TOWN OF ST. MARYS
P.O. Box 998, St. Marys, ON. N4X 1B6

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Resolution in Support of VIA Rail

Whereas, reductions in VIA Rail service led to the formation of advocacy groups such as Save VIA (www.savevia.ca); and

Whereas, citizens of all ages and backgrounds, especially those with no license or vehicle, rely on VIA Rail; and

Whereas, passenger rail provides safer and more eco-friendly transportation than driving; and

Whereas, enhanced VIA Rail service heightens connections between communities, thereby promoting tourism and economic development; and

Whereas, the Southwestern Ontario Transportation Alliance, with the support of advocacy groups, businesses and municipalities in the region, has published the *Network Southwest Action Plan* to address the need for reliable and sustainable rail-based passenger transportation in Southwestern Ontario; and

Whereas, it is time for all levels of government to stop thinking passenger rail service is only a federal responsibility, and begin providing support for intercity transportation services in communities beyond the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA);

Now, therefore, I, Mayor of _____, do hereby proclaim that VIA Rail is important to my municipality; and urge my fellow citizens as well as all levels of government to consider the *Network Southwest Action Plan* as presented March 18, 2015 and available at www.swota.ca.