

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2017</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>KATE GRAHAM, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY &amp; ECONOMIC INNOVATION</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>MAYORS OF SOUTHWEST ONTARIO (MOSO) - UPDATE</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Director, Community & Economic Innovation, the following report regarding the Mayors Of Southwest Ontario **BE RECEIVED** for information.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- Corporate Services Committee – April 26, 2016 – Southwest Ontario Urban Mayors Caucus (SOUMC) Update

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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In June 2015, mayors from across Southwestern Ontario met with Premier Kathleen Wynne to discuss the Province’s ongoing consultations on High-Speed Rail. The Premier urged the Mayors to come together and develop a common voice for the region. In response, the regional urban Mayors agreed to establish the Mayors Of Southwest Ontario (MOSO), formerly called the Southwestern Ontario Urban Mayors Caucus (SOUMC).

MOSO brings together the mayors of the 11 largest urban municipalities in Southwest Ontario to share information and ideas, and to build consensus around key regional priorities. It includes representation from London, Sarnia, Woodstock, Cambridge, Windsor, Brantford, Guelph, Waterloo, Stratford, Kitchener, and St. Thomas. Mayor Matt Brown was elected as Chair of the group. As Chair, London has an important opportunity to demonstrate leadership and bring the region together to focus on the most significant challenges and opportunities that face Southwest Ontario.

In April, 2016, Council directed Civic Administration to support the administration of the Mayors Of Southwest Ontario (formerly SOUMC), to be led by the Government and External Relations department in partnership with the Mayor’s Office.

London’s participation on MOSO advances Council’s *2015-2019 Strategic Plan* objectives by building strategic and collaborative partnerships with neighbouring municipalities that will raise the City’s regional, national and international profile.

<b>UPDATE</b>
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This report provides an update on the progress of the Mayors of Southwest Ontario (MOSO) since the last report to the Corporate Services Committee on April 26, 2016.

In June 2016, the group convened a panel of academics and experts from the region to assist MOSO to identify specific areas under each of the four advocacy priorities: Core Infrastructure (roads, bridges, water systems); Public Transit and Regional Transportation; Social Housing; and Economic Development.

In consultation with the expert panelists, an advocacy positions document was created to inform delegations with key decision makers. This document was shared with provincial and federal representatives, as well as other municipal leaders from the region through the Western Ontario Warden’s Caucus.

Subsequent to the policy development session, MOSO held a meeting with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Deputy Premier Deb Matthews, Hon. Kathryn McGarry (Cambridge), and MPP Diaene Vernile (Kitchener Centre). The Mayors used this opportunity to discuss their policy priorities and provide an update to the Premier on the group’s progress. The Premier emphasized the value of the Mayors presenting a unified regional voice, and committed to continued consultation with MOSO on regional priorities like High Speed Rail.

Following their meeting with the Premier, MOSO held a number of significant delegations at the 2016 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference in August. MOSO arranged a forum discussion with high ranking ministers including Minister of Municipal Affairs Bill Mauro, Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy Chris Ballard, Minister of Infrastructure Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca and Minister of Economic Development and Growth Brad Duguid.

Also at AMO, the group hosted individual delegations with Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) President Clark Somerville, Leader of the Official Opposition Patrick Brown and members of the PC Caucus, and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and members of the NDP Caucus. The Mayors underscored the importance of Southwest Ontario’s regional priorities and emphasized MOSO’s potential as a consultative body for future discussions with municipal associations and the opposition parties.

MOSO launched its second year with a meeting on February 3, 2017 in Guelph. The Mayors met with Ontario Minister of Finance Charles Sousa, timed to help inform preparations for the 2017 Provincial Budget. The meeting with the Minister of Finance included productive conversation about the Mayors’ priorities for the region in the context of the province’s budget planning, as well as areas of concern for the province including hydro prices and housing affordability. The Minister also consulted the group on real estate market issues, exploring how market conditions have developed outside of the GTHA. The Mayors highlighted housing affordability concerns in the region, as well as implications for economic development and affordable housing.

In 2017, MOSO plans to meet at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in June, as well as at the 2017 AMO conference to build on the success of the previous year.

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
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The Mayors Of Southwest Ontario (MOSO) continues to be a valuable advocacy body for London and joint Southwest Ontario priorities. The group’s focus on regional transit, affordable housing, infrastructure, and economic development align with Council’s priorities as expressed in the Strategic Plan. London’s continued leadership in MOSO supports the City’s vision as “A leader in commerce, culture, and innovation - our region’s connection to the World.”

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
<b>NICK STEINBURG SPECIALIST, GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>	<b>ADAM THOMPSON MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY &amp; ECONOMIC INNOVATION</b>	



# MAYORS OF SOUTHWEST ONTARIO

## BACKGROUND

The Mayors of Southwest Ontario (MOSO) held its inaugural meeting in January 2016 with the goal of strengthening and enhancing the voice of urban regions in Southwest Ontario. MOSO represents a forum for the sharing of information, best practices and ideas from community to community.

The MOSO Mayors are committed to advancing the shared priorities of Southwest Ontario, and the 2.5 million Ontarians who call our region home.

## Priority 1

# The Foundations of our Economy: Core Infrastructure

- The federal and provincial governments recently began negotiations toward finalizing details surrounding Phase 1 of the new federal investments into municipal infrastructure. We recognize that these negotiations take time. We are eager to learn the details on Phase 1 as soon as possible to get projects moving forward this construction season.
- In addition, governments will be negotiating the program design principles for Phase 2 as part of the long-term infrastructure plan.
- Since the release of Federal Budget, our cities have been identifying our long-term infrastructure priorities to get shovels in the ground as soon as investments become available.



*MOSO represents an important consultative body for these discussions. To ensure the infrastructure needs of Southwest Ontario are addressed, MOSO should be consulted each step of the way.*

## Priority 2

# Providing Affordable Housing for All Ontarians

- The announcement of Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy was well received by cities in Southwest Ontario. The Strategy recognizes that a safe and affordable home is the foundation of our region's economic competitiveness and quality of life.
- The federal government's commitment to work with stakeholders and governments to develop a National Housing Strategy presents an important opportunity to provide long-term, predictable investments for Ontario's social housing needs.
- There is no one-size-fits-all approach that will cure the challenges in our cities. We need to ensure we have the tools and support Ontarians need to implement both Housing Strategies in our communities.



*MOSO will be pressing the federal government to consult with our group to ensure that policies developed at the national level meet local needs and that these solutions also enhance the government Housing Strategy.*

### Priority 3 **Connecting Cities and Communities Across the Region**

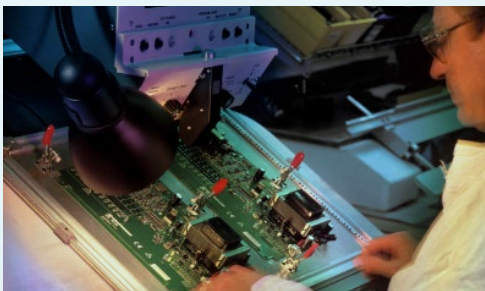
- The Mayors of Southwest Ontario applaud investments into regional transportation that increase the economic competitiveness of the region. Recent expansion of GO service to cover more Southwest communities is critical to linking urban regions to the world.
- All governments need to continue to invest in regional connectivity across Southwest Ontario to unlock our region's economic and social potential.
- A High-Speed Rail corridor, for example, will enable Ontarians to access global opportunities and remain close to family and communities. HSR will be a key driver to support the retention of skilled talent and capital in the region.
- The Province of Ontario's exploration of High Speed Rail connectivity across the region represents an important opportunity to create jobs, build stronger economic integration and improve the lives of the 2.5 million Ontarians across the Southwest.



*MOSO is prepared to work with the government to advance HSR in our region and address the next steps flowing from the Province of Ontario's upcoming business case.*

### Priority 4 **Creating Jobs and Building & Securing Long-Term Economic Competitiveness**

- In Budget 2016, the Province of Ontario announced its commitment to invest in Ontario's Innovation Super Corridor. The Super Corridor must link the innovation clusters throughout Southwest Ontario to those to the east and to the world.
- Cities are our economic engines. They are talent attractors and centres of innovation.
- We need to build an Economic Network- connecting small cities with urban regions which serve as export platforms to global markets.
- Increasingly, there is no "tech sector"; everything is tech, and technological innovation is in every industry.
- MOSO mayors are also working on the ground to identify the needs of our small businesses with respect to scaling up operations and growing business economic footprint in our region.
- MOSO mayors believe that innovation is partly about transportation linkages, but must also include targeted investments in the public goods and services that help cities create and retain talent – rapid transit, roads and water systems – which connect the 2.5 million Ontarians in the region to a high quality of life.



*MOSO wants to work with all governments to identify strategies for retaining talent across the region. These strategies should recognize the central role that High Speed Rail will play as an economic catalyst for the region.*

## About MOSO

The Mayors of Southwest Ontario (MOSO) represent the 11 urban cities in the Southwest region with populations over 30,000. MOSO provides a forum for our communities to share information and develop solutions to our region's most significant urban issues. MOSO is working with all orders of government and the private sector to build the partnerships required to move these solutions forward.

The Mayors are united in their belief that a strong Ontario and a strong Canada can only be achieved through vibrant, welcoming and economically competitive communities that can attract and retain the very best talent across the region.



# MOSO

## Mayors

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Mayor Matt Brown, *City of London (Chair)*  
Mayor Cam Guthrie, *City of Guelph (Vice-Chair)*  
Mayor Trevor Birtch, *City of Woodstock*  
Mayor Mike Bradley, *City of Sarnia*  
Mayor Doug Craig, *City of Cambridge*  
Mayor Drew Dilken, *City of Windsor*  
Mayor Chris Friel, *City of Brantford*  
Mayor Heather Jackson, *City of St. Thomas*  
Mayor Dave Jawarsky, *City of Waterloo*  
Mayor Dan Mathieson, *City of Stratford*  
Mayor Berry Vrbanovic, *City of Kitchener*

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