

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 18, 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>
-----------------------

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>
--

- Corporate Services Committee – April 26, 2016 – Southwest Ontario Urban Mayors Caucus (SOUMC) Update
- Corporate Services Committee – March 6, 2017 – Mayors of Southwest Ontario (MOSO) - Update

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
-------------------

In June 2015, mayors from across Southwest 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, to be led by Government and External Relations 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>
---------------

This report provides an update on the meeting of the MOSO mayors on June 2, 2017 at the FCM annual conference in Ottawa.

MOSO mayors met to cover a number of small updates in advance of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference, which will be held from August 13-16, 2017 in Ottawa. Since the last meeting of MOSO, the Province of Ontario has released details on the Government’s plan to move ahead with a High-Speed Rail (HSR) corridor for Southwest Ontario. The Mayors discussed the need to stay plugged in to these province-led discussions. While this is a transformational project for the region, a number of outstanding questions remain. The mayors resolved to connect with the Minister of Transportation at the upcoming AMO meeting in Ottawa to discuss these outstanding items. One significant item of note is the need for municipalities to have a strong seat at the table within the previously announced governance body that will oversee the implementation of HSR in Southwest Ontario. MOSO has, and will continue to advocate that this body is well positioned to provide timely and meaningful input into the design and rollout of HSR.

Finally, the mayors discussed HSR as a project that is ideally situated for the new Canada Infrastructure Bank, generally agreeing that the Infrastructure Bank would be a viable funding option worthy of serious provincial and federal consideration.

Based on the success of the 2016 MOSO Ministers' Forum at AMO's annual conference, the mayors agreed to host another forum in 2017. This year's meetings will be focused on obtaining further commitments from all parties on advancing both HSR and a broader Southwest Ontario Transportation Master Plan. The AMO conference comes at a key time in the election cycle, with parties likely to be focused on informing and building their election platforms in preparation for the June 2018 provincial election.

At the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the mayors received a submission from Oxford County. The submission, *Empowering Ontario's Short Line Railways*, addresses an infrastructure gap on Short Line railways, which are small routes that feed into larger national rail corridors. Oxford County has identified these railways as critical but under-supported pieces of the overall transportation network. The Oxford County submission looks to the Federal and Provincial governments to provide additional support to repair and maintain short line railway infrastructure. The short line railway submission was viewed as an important part of the region's overall transportation network, and the mayors agreed to endorse the proposal. A letter has been sent to Oxford County expressing the mayors' support.

The next meeting of MOSO will take place at the AMO Annual Conference in August 2017 in Ottawa.

<b>CONCLUSION</b>
-------------------

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>	