



## Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

August 7, 2025

### Ministry of Energy and Mines

Energy Policy and Analytics Division  
77 Grenville Street, 6th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

To Whom It May Concern:

### **RE: Feedback on Proposal to Declare Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project a Priority under the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998**

On behalf of The Corporation of the City of Windsor (the “City”), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Ministry’s proposal to declare the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Project a priority project under Section 96.1(1) of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

We recognize the significant growth occurring across the Windsor-Essex region, particularly in the electric vehicle (EV) and battery supply chain, agri-business, and advanced manufacturing sectors. Without strategic investment in expanded capacity, all forms of development— residential, commercial, and industrial—face significant risk. Industrial stakeholders have already identified electrical capacity as a potential constraint to investment. Furthermore, the City’s commitment to supporting residential electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, as endorsed by Council, cannot be realized without enhanced electrical supply.

The timely development of robust energy transmission infrastructure is vital to support this expansion, and the City is broadly supportive of this proposal. Please accept the following feedback across key areas of municipal interest:

### **Economic Development Alignment**

Windsor is in a transformative phase of economic renewal. With substantial investments such as the NextStar Energy EV battery plant, the region is experiencing a sharp rise in energy demand. The proposed transmission project will:

- Provide essential grid capacity to serve both new and existing industrial users, while enabling growth across the Canadian supply chain;
- Support energy reliability and cost predictability, key factors in attracting and retaining businesses;
- Reinforce regional competitiveness in securing investment;
- Advance the objectives of Windsor’s Economic Development Strategy.

### **Infrastructure, Planning, and Asset Management**

From a municipal infrastructure standpoint, we encourage early and ongoing coordination between Hydro One and the City’s engineering, planning, and asset management teams. Early engagement will:

- Prevent conflicts with existing and future public infrastructure;
- Facilitate alignment with Official Plans, master servicing plans and long-term growth areas;
- Allow for potential collaboration between infrastructure projects;
- Ensure that municipal infrastructure projects can proceed with minimal disruption.

We also note that rights-of-way, substation locations, and related infrastructure should be evaluated in the context of existing and planned road networks, utility corridors, and future development lands.

### Energy and Environmental Goals

As a municipality committed to climate action, Windsor is advancing both corporate and community-wide efforts to reduce emissions and promote energy efficiency. This project aligns with our broader energy transition objectives. In this context, we encourage:

- Strong environmental protections and proactive mitigation for impacts on farmland, watersheds, and natural features;
- Exploration of complementary solutions, including local energy storage and renewable generation;
- Continued coordination with municipalities on siting, design, and environmental considerations.

### Indigenous Reconciliation and Inclusion

The City fully supports the Ministry's commitment to reconciliation and the inclusion of Indigenous communities through equity partnerships and workforce opportunities. The Hydro One First Nation Equity Partnership Model is an important step forward. We encourage transparent reporting on outcomes and invite opportunities for municipalities to support these efforts in a complementary fashion.

### Project Timeliness and Coordination

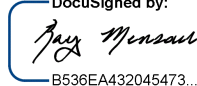
Given the IESO's recommendation that the transmission line be in-service by 2032, the declaration of priority status is prudent. That said, timely execution will require:

- Coordination across municipal and provincial regulatory processes;
- Adequate resourcing to support expedited approvals;
- Clear communication and engagement with local stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle.

The City supports, in principle, the designation of the Windsor to Lakeshore Transmission Line as a priority infrastructure project. Administration will continue to work collaboratively with Ministry of Energy and Mines and Hydro One to support route planning and necessary approvals, while also advancing negotiations related to community benefits.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office for further discussion or clarification.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Ray Mensour  
 Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Mayor Drew Dilkens  
 Corporate Leadership Team

