



January 12, 2015

Honourable David L. Emerson P.C
Chair of Canada Transportation Act Review Panel
350 Albert Street, Suite 330
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Mr. Emerson:

David

The federal government's decision to review the Canada Transportation Act a year early is very helpful given market access issues and the urgent need to address rail safety. The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to your Review Panel.

Legislation needs to balance economic, social, and environmental considerations and ensure that our country can be competitive in global markets. One key priority is the need to incent higher efficiency and carbon reduction across various modes of transportation. In addition to enabling rail safety improvements, key air transportation issues should be addressed through ensuring that funding models for national airports enable competitiveness and the regulatory burden on regional and small airports is reduced (e.g., runway end safety areas). Regardless of the mode of transportation, every effort should be made to recognize the importance of accessible transportation infrastructure for the public, especially since nearly 14 percent of Canadians have some kind of mobility issue and there is a growing proportion of seniors who are also negatively impacted when transportation is not accessible.

Municipal transportation infrastructure is a crucial part of market access for trade and tourism flows. However, our ability to continue to be hubs for economic activity depends on federal financial support for strategic transportation infrastructure. Additionally, it is important to ensure that any new infrastructure is financially sustainable with regards to ongoing maintenance.

We look forward to seeing the results of your review this December and sharing them with our members.

Sincerely,

Helen Rice
AUMA President

cc: Honourable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Transportation
Honourable Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Brad Woodside, FCM President