



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

SOPHIE CHATEL

Member of Parliament for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi

PRESS RELEASE

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A Major Step Forward for the Region: Gatineau-Ottawa Tramway Moves Toward a Sustainable Future

Our government will provide full funding, \$31.6 million, for the feasibility studies for the 2 km federal and Ottawa portions of the Gatineau-Ottawa Tramway project, which will cross the Portage Bridge. This amount adds to the \$65.4 million already announced last summer to fund studies for the Quebec side of the project.

The tramway will meet the mobility needs of residents while enhancing their quality of life. This funding will advance the project's planning phase, paving the way for efficient and sustainable travel across the river.

A major project is taking shape in the National Capital Region! The 24-km Gatineau-Ottawa Tramway, connecting western Gatineau to downtown Ottawa, is progressing rapidly thanks to collaboration between federal and provincial governments and the City of Gatineau. This ambitious project promises to not only improve urban mobility but also address climate challenges while supporting the region's population growth.

A Shared Vision for a Green Future

"The Government of Canada is committed to improving interprovincial transportation in the National Capital Region. To meet the needs of the growing population in the NCR we must work together to invest in infrastructure projects. This tramway will improve mobility and stimulate economic development in the

region for generations to come." – *The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Quebec Lieutenant*

"Today, I am pleased to confirm a decisive step toward a sustainable future for our region. The Gatineau-Ottawa Tramway project, like the protection of Gatineau Park, reflects our collective commitment to building a green and prosperous Outaouais." – *Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi*

"This investment demonstrates our commitment to improving regional and interprovincial mobility to support population growth from east to west in our city. By focusing on modern and sustainable infrastructure, our government is investing in building a better-connected city geared towards the future. " – *The Honourable Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons*

"Funding for the necessary studies to complete the Hull-Aylmer tramway is now secured! This is a major step forward, putting our region on the right track toward a modern, efficient, and sustainable transit network. Next stop: a tramway for Hull-Aylmer!" – *The Honourable Greg Fergus, Member of Parliament for Hull-Aylmer*

"I welcome this investment from our government. The tramway will meet residents' mobility needs while improving their quality of life, reducing road traffic, and easing congestion on routes leading to the national capital, including Highway 50 in my riding. This ambitious project promises not only to enhance urban mobility and traveler safety but also to address climate challenges while supporting the region's demographic and economic growth. This is excellent news." – *Stéphane Lauzon, MP for Argenteuil-La Petite-Nation and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizen Services*

"The commitment that the federal government is now confirming and completing allows us to keep pushing forward with this project that will transform mobility in Gatineau. I want to sincerely thank our federal MPs who have worked tirelessly to make this announcement possible. A huge thank you as well to all our other partners, including the Government of Quebec and the Société de transport de l'Outaouais." – *Maude Marquis-Bissonnette, Mayor of the City of Gatineau*

"The Société de transport de l'Outaouais welcomes the confirmation of this funding, " says STO Board Chair Jocelyn Blondin. As the work of the Groupe Porteur begins, we will be able to incorporate Ontario's studies into the planning process for this

structuring project, which is essential for the city's development and mobility of Gatineau residents." – *Jocelyn Blondin, STO Board Chair*

"The Gatineau-Ottawa Tramway is essential for improving the quality of life in our region and building friendly and inclusive communities. We enthusiastically welcome the federal government's announcement, which ends uncertainty by securing funding for the next steps. This paves the way for rigorous planning and the realization of this transformative project." – *Patrick Robert-Meunier, Executive Director of MOBI-O and spokesperson for the Coalition for a Tramway*

Key Highlights

- **24-km route:** The tramway will span 24 km, linking western Gatineau to downtown Ottawa, crossing the Ottawa River via the Portage Bridge.
- **5,000 passengers per hour:** Each tram vehicle will carry up to 300 passengers, with a total capacity of 5,000 passengers per hour in each direction. This significant increase in transit capacity is expected to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, alleviating congestion, particularly in downtown Gatineau and Ottawa.
- **Environmental benefits:** In Gatineau, 44% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. The Gatineau-Ottawa Tramway is a key tool for reducing GHGs in the region.
- **Investment:** With a federal investment of \$97 million, technical and environmental studies will ensure rigorous planning through 2028.
- **Strong population growth:** Gatineau, the fourth largest city in Quebec, is experiencing rapid growth, particularly in the west. With its population projected to increase by 50% by 2050, this project aligns with a long-term vision to address the growing mobility needs in the National Capital Region.
- **Professional services:** The Société de transport de l'Outaouais has awarded the contract for Technical and Multidisciplinary Professional Services to Groupe Porteur, composed of Systra Canada Inc., Egis Rail S.A., and Services EXP Inc.

RELATED LINKS

<https://www.budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2024/report-rapport/toc-tdm-en.html> (p.173)

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