

Kim Rose

From: FONOM Office/ Bureau de FONOM <fonom.info@gmail.com>
Sent: November 28, 2025 11:49 AM
Subject: Support Requested: Nation-Building Improvements to Highways 11/17 (2+1 & Four-Lane Options)

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Good afternoon Please share with your Council and Senior Staff

I hope this message finds you well.

FONOM is reaching out to request your Council's support for the attached resolution calling for a coordinated, nation-building approach to modernizing Highways 11 and 17 through a phased 2+1 highway program, while also recognizing that full four-laning remains the ultimate long-term solution should the federal and provincial governments choose to pursue that option. As many of you will remember, several member municipalities have previously endorsed similar resolutions, and we want to sincerely thank you for your leadership and early advocacy on this important file.

With the Government of Ontario now moving forward with a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami, and signalling interest in extending this approach north toward Cochrane, the timing is right to strengthen our collective voice. The resolution outlines the strong safety, environmental, and economic rationale for a scalable 2+1 program—one that can be converted to four lanes as traffic volumes grow, funding becomes available, or government direction changes.

Endorsing this resolution reinforces the message that communities across Northern and Eastern Ontario support an approach that delivers near-term safety and mobility improvements while keeping the door open to future four-laning where warranted.

We would greatly appreciate your Council's consideration of the resolution. If supported, we encourage you to share the adopted resolution with the federal and provincial offices listed, helping to ensure that both governments understand the importance of a modern, reliable Trans-Canada corridor.

If you have any questions or would like supplemental information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to strengthening the infrastructure, safety, and competitiveness of our region.

Whereas Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors; and

Whereas four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor; and

Whereas the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway; and

Whereas modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

Whereas a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --+ Cochrane, then Cochrane --+ Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew--+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie--+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

Whereas analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the _____ formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project; and

That the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction; and

That the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit):

That the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and

That both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and

That the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials); and

That this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

(NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for support, and the County of Renfrew for information.

Happy to chat

Talk soon, Mac.

Mac Bain
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Helen Keller once said, ***“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”.***

FONOM

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Hosted by the City of Timmins
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