

**Whereas** The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys supports the National Transportation Policy, being a declaration in Section 5 of the *Canada Transportation Act*, S.C. 1996, c. 10 (as amended), which states:

*It is declared that a competitive, economic and efficient national transportation system that meets the highest practicable safety and security standards and contributes to a sustainable environment and makes the best use of all modes of transportation at the lowest total cost is essential to serve the needs of its users, advance the well-being of Canadians and enable competitiveness and economic growth in both urban and rural areas throughout Canada. Those objectives are most likely to be achieved when:*

*(a) competition and market forces, both within and among the various modes of transportation, are the prime agents in providing viable and effective transportation services;*

*(b) regulation and strategic public intervention are used to achieve economic, safety, security, environmental or social outcomes that cannot be achieved satisfactorily by competition and market forces and do not unduly favour, or reduce the inherent advantages of, any particular mode of transportation;*

*(c) rates and conditions do not constitute an undue obstacle to the movement of traffic within Canada or to the export of goods from Canada;*

*(d) the transportation system is accessible without undue obstacle to the mobility of persons, including persons with disabilities; and*

*(e) governments and the private sector work together for an integrated transportation system.*

**Whereas** The government of Canada has subsequently stated: “we are serious about climate change” and “smart investments in transit help connection communities .... We will continue to work with communities and invest in the infrastructure they need today and into the future”;

**Whereas** Abacus data has indicated that Canadians are focused on building up transit to reduce congestion and connecting communities;

**Whereas** The Canadian Transport Commission main finding at public hearings in 1977 was that there should be no further reductions to passenger rail services;

**Whereas** The frequency of VIA trains running on the North Main Line from Sarnia to London and from London through St. Marys/Stratford to Toronto has been reduced from 14 in 1977 to 4 today;

**Whereas** There is a need for balanced transportation with more people using transit and less using automobiles;

**Whereas** The changing demographic relating to house prices, housing affordability will require further expansions of transit;

**Whereas** There is a need to visit tourist sites such as the Stratford Festival, The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum;

**Whereas** The annual cost of congestion to the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area economy alone is between \$7.5 and \$11 billion;

**Whereas** There are 10 million more vehicles on the road today than there were in 2000; and

**Whereas** the Town of St. Marys requests the support of this resolution from all communities served by VIA;

**Be It Resolved** That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of St. Marys recommends to the Government of Canada to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability, ticket cost and speed of VIA rail service on the North Main Line in 2019.