

City of Ottawa
Public Works & Infrastructure Committee

High-Speed
Train

September
25, 2025

ALTO

Addressing the Key Challenges of Intercity Travel in the Corridor

Economic growth is stagnating in the Corridor. Productivity levels in Ontario and Québec are falling further behind fellow G7 countries and the rest of Canada.

Escalating Transportation Costs

Individuals and businesses face high auto and air travel costs through delays and out-of-pocket expenses, while governments are pressured to increase spending to maintain and expand the network.

Network Capacity Constraints

The current transportation infrastructure in the Corridor is not equipped to handle the increasing congestion and travel demands resulting from rapid population growth. The need to connect disparate labour markets grows.

Disconnected Communities

The rail transportation network in the Corridor lacks direct links between communities. This lack of connectivity hinders the efficient movement of people and goods, leading to delays and a stagnant economy.

Offering Canadians a Service on par with European Standards

Operating at speeds of 300 km/h or more, on nearly 1,000 km of dedicated, electrified track, this state-of-the-art passenger rail network will connect major cities and allow more than 24 million people living along the Corridor to be where they need to be, when it really matters.

Fast

Reaching speeds of 300 km/h or more to significantly reduce overall travel time. That's at the heart of our vision, and it's necessary to achieve a real modal shift.

Reliable

Dedicated tracks will ensure the uninterrupted movement of trains. No more waiting and yielding the right of way to freight trains.

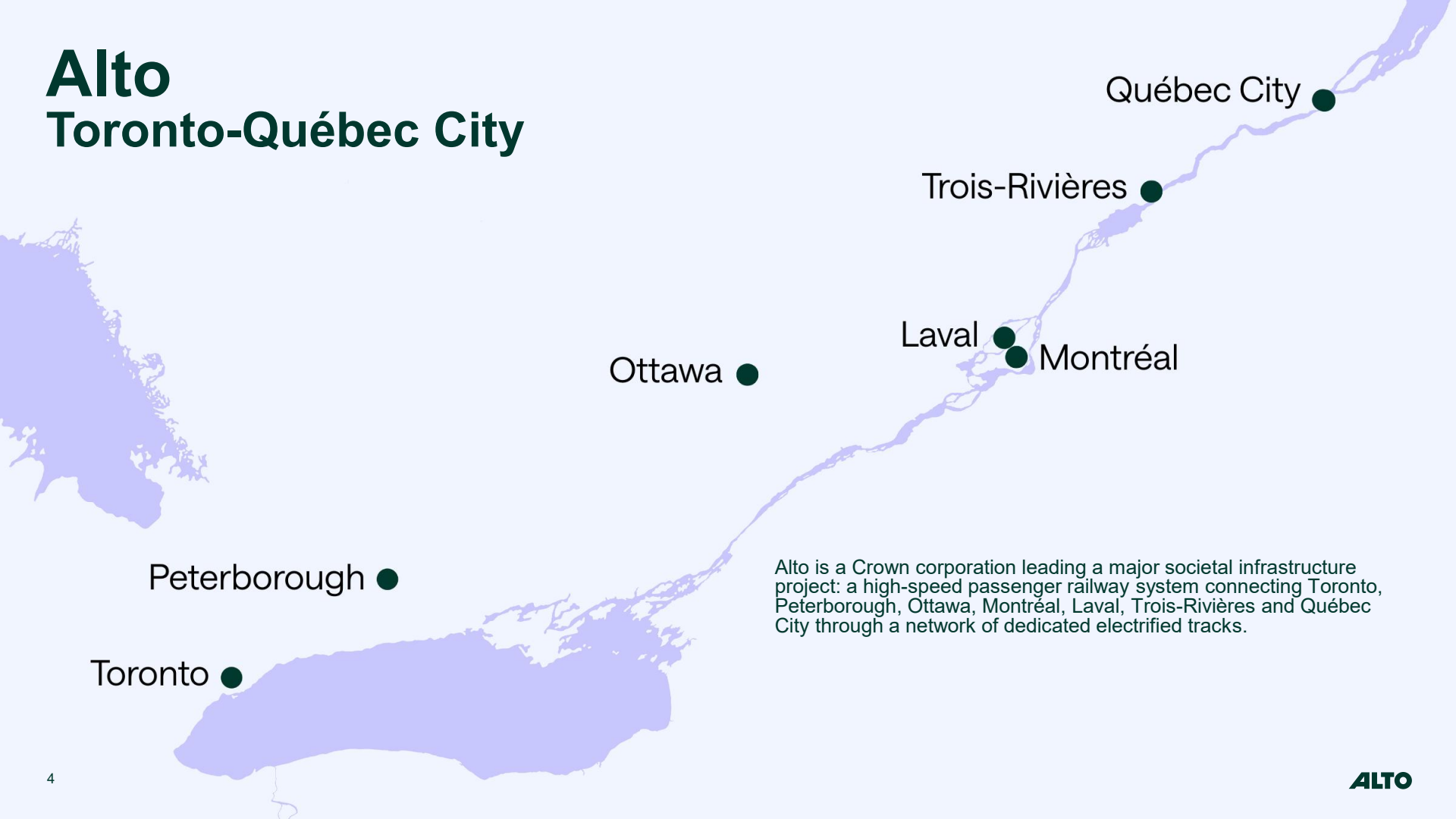
Frequent

More regular departures every hour so you can leave when you want, even at the last minute. I.e. 20-30 daily departures estimated in some markets.

A central infrastructure linking existing services and other local networks.

Alto

Toronto-Québec City



Alto is a Crown corporation leading a major societal infrastructure project: a high-speed passenger railway system connecting Toronto, Peterborough, Ottawa, Montréal, Laval, Trois-Rivières and Québec City through a network of dedicated electrified tracks.

Imagine...What If You Could Get to Your Destination Twice as Fast? **That's our vision**

This transformational investment would enhance the quality of life, foster stronger connections between communities and drive economic growth.

	TRAVEL TIMES TODAY	HIGH-SPEED RAIL TRAVEL TIMES	TIME SAVINGS
Toronto-Ottawa	<i>4 h 26 min</i>	2 h 09 min	2 h 17 min
Toronto-Montréal	<i>5 h 30 min</i>	3 h 07 min	2 h 23 min
Toronto-Peterborough*	<i>1 h 27 min</i>	0 h 40 min	0 h 47 min
Ottawa-Montréal	<i>1 h 59 min</i>	0 h 58 min	1 h 01 min
Montréal-Québec City	<i>3 h 17 min</i>	1 h 29 min	1 h 48 min
Montréal-Trois-Rivières*	<i>1 h 44 min</i>	0 h 50 min	0 h 54 min

*Passenger train service not available. Travel time indicated is by car only.

Impact on Canadian GDP (Annual Effects)



Productivity: The project will bring companies in different cities closer together, generate substantial agglomeration effects and boost overall productivity

\$21.0 billion



Increased workforce participation: Reduced commuting times and travel costs will encourage more people to enter the workforce.

\$2.7 billion



Tourism: Improved connectivity between cities will attract international tourism.

\$0.8 billion

Benefits will result in 1.1% of Canada's annual GDP, or \$24.5 billion expected from accelerated labour mobility, tourism and productivity.

Project Benefits for the Canadian Economy

Stimulating Demand for Canadian Goods and Services

The Toronto-Québec City High-Speed Rail Network project will create demand for Canadian goods and services (e.g., engineers, land surveyors, architects and rail experts).

The project could be used as a catalyst for greater inclusion of Canadian content as it will require substantial volumes of local materials and resources (i.e., steel, aluminum, copper, ballast, concrete, etc.)

Stimulate Internal Trade

Both during its construction and operation, the project will significantly increase connectivity between major economic hubs and facilitate internal trade.

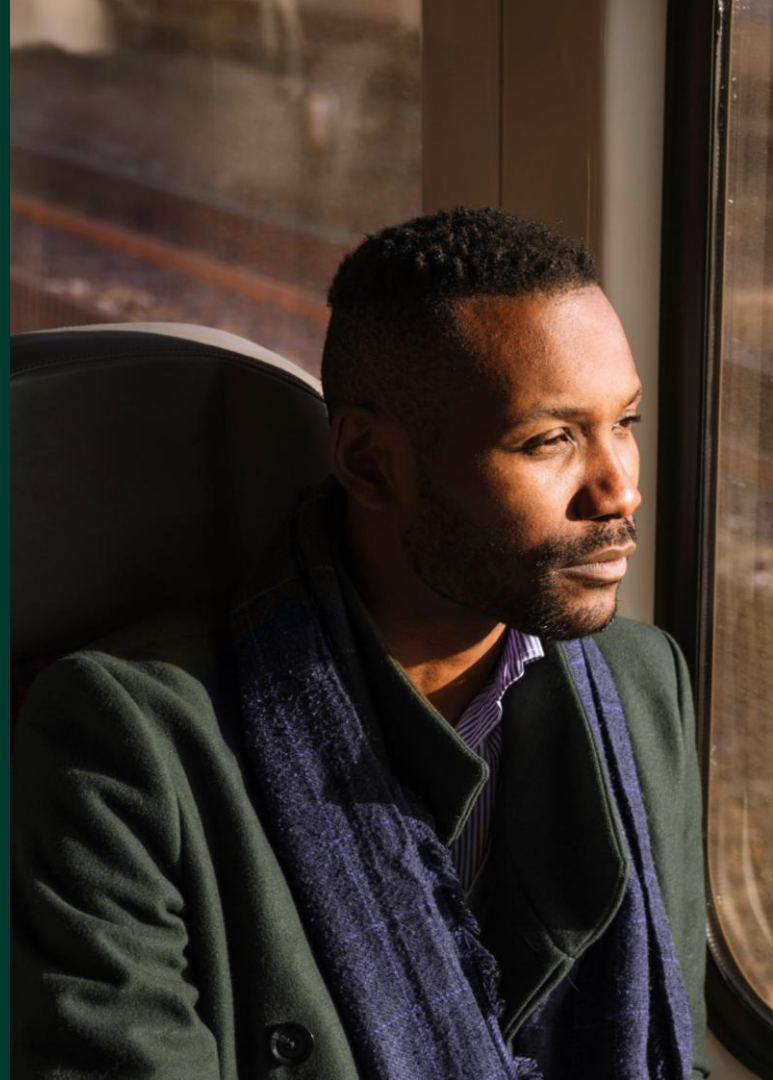
Broadening Access to the Job Market

The project can improve job-skill matching and encourage greater workforce participation.

Increased productivity from infrastructure projects can offset decreased export demand, helping to stabilize the economy.

7 Project Outcomes

1. Significantly increase intercity rail passengers
2. Enable safe intercity journeys
3. Enhance passenger experience in the Corridor
4. Minimize financial costs to taxpayers
5. Provide meaningful environmental benefits to support the Government of Canada's net-zero commitment
6. Contribute positively to the Government of Canada's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
7. Significantly increase availability of accessible and affordable services

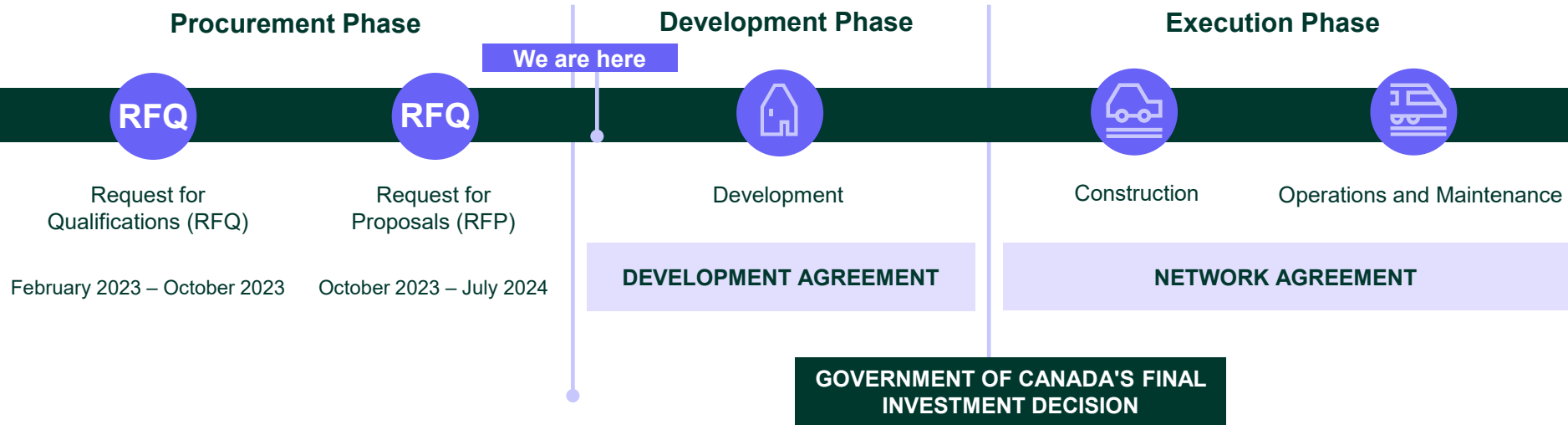


About Cadence

The Cadence Consortium is an alliance of experienced Canadian and international private partners.



Key Stages of the Project



Main Activities During Development Phase

In large infrastructure initiatives, a development phase is required to advance all the design components of the project before it is built. It is required to define what will be built, in what sequence, where, and how.

For the high-speed rail network, this phase will entail many activities, including:

- **Advancing a detailed design of the electrified high-speed train network** and all its technical features
- **Engaging key stakeholders** including organizations and elected officials
- **Fulfilling the Crown's duty to consult Indigenous communities and facilitating their participation for Indigenous communities** in the project
- **Establishing a corridor** for the high-speed train's new dedicated tracks
- **Engaging with railway companies** (host railways) to understand their assets and access in anticipation of future negotiations
- **Completing the impact assessment process** required prior to the construction

What We Are Hearing

Indigenous communities

Holding over **150 meetings** with Indigenous communities and partners, we have established there is an overarching sense of support and positive feedback. It's essential that we maintain our current momentum to ensure the network advances towards its successful completion.

There is a significant amount of interest and openness regarding the project among Indigenous communities and groups, with Collaboration Agreements signed with **eight** Indigenous communities.



What We Are Hearing

Elected officials and stakeholders

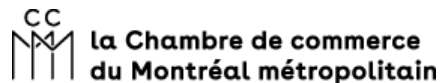
Our interactions with officials, media, and the public have revealed a strong preference for emphasizing speed over frequency. This has led to a shift in increased support towards the Project.

Following our CEO's addresses at key Chambers of Commerce and other relevant organizations and events, there is an increase in public third-party endorsement and support towards the project increasing social awareness and acceptability.

Discussions with leaders in both Ontario and Québec have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback and support. Our stronger focus on speed and reliability has strongly resonated with these influential leaders and key stakeholders.



Public Endorsements

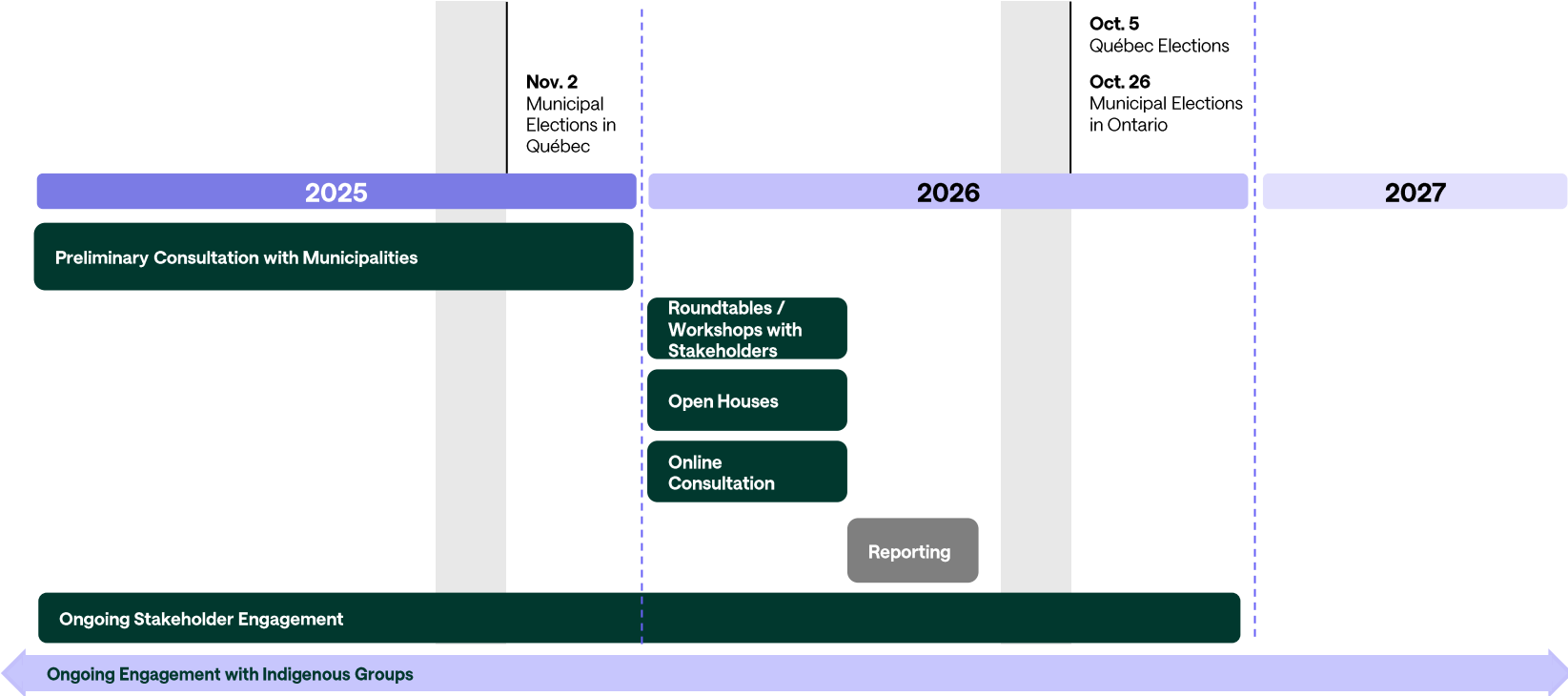


Community Benefits

Considerations

- Create **sustained and measurable** benefits for impacted communities along the project alignment.
- Be a catalyst for **housing opportunities**, including affordable housing.
- Ensure the **inclusion of marginalized and designated groups** including Indigenous communities and achieve **broader public policy objectives**.
- **Economic Empowerment** through local opportunities: Provide employment, business, and supply chain opportunities for **local communities**, integrating them into the project's development and operations.

Public Engagement Timeline



Engagement Principles

Drive to achieve social acceptability of the network through meaningful engagement that aligns with our corporate engagement principles of:

- **Trust and Accountability**
- **Collaboration and Inclusiveness**
- **Innovation**
- **Local Focus**
- **Openness and Responsibility**
- **Respectfulness**

With an understanding that goals will shift as the project evolves.





What's Next

- Continue Preliminary Engagement with Municipalities throughout the Corridor
- City of Ottawa staff to meet with Alto technical staff in October
- Host Roundtable Discussions with Stakeholders
- Schedule Open Houses for the General Public, both in-person and online

Closer,
faster,
together

ALTO