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July 22, 2011

Hon. Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Infrastructure
Mowat Block, 5th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 1C2

Dear Minister Chiarelli: **Building Together**

The Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (OCSI) brings together the combined resources of five well-established organizations to work toward sustainable infrastructure in Ontario. The Coalition comprises:

- *Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)*
- *Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)*
- *Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA)*
- *Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA)*
- *Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO)*

The mission of the Coalition is the promotion of “Safe and Sustainable Infrastructure”.

OCSI wishes to congratulate you and your staff on the recent publication of “Building Together”. There has been a pressing need for a long-term plan for infrastructure investment in Ontario. “Building Together”, with its 10-year planning horizon, is a key step toward meeting that need. Our organizations fully support the overall objectives of “Building Together” and the principles on which it is based, namely:

- investing for future prosperity
- aligning public services with demographic change, and
- ensuring good stewardship.

The incorporation of these principles into the plan, and the consultation which your Ministry carried out during its development, ensures that “Building Together” will meet the needs of Ontarians.

We recognize though that, as in any plan, there will be challenges in its implementation. We believe that OCSI can assist your government to successfully overcome those challenges and implement the plan’s objectives. OCSI’s five constituent organizations include representation from municipalities, Provincial and Federal government agencies, consultants, academics, suppliers and First Nations. Our membership therefore provides a comprehensive viewpoint of the issues and is a resource which you can draw upon.

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We would be happy to discuss the challenges as we see them and how best to address them. We anticipate some of those challenges to be:

- Communicating the importance of good asset management to municipal officials, the public and other stakeholders
- Recognizing the changing workforce demographic within Ontario's municipalities, in particular their engineering, operations and maintenance staff resources
- Forecasting the potential effects of climate change, evaluating how it could impact existing and new infrastructure, and determining how such impacts can be accommodated in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.
- Ensuring cooperation and coordination between the three levels of government—municipal, provincial and federal.

We feel that these issues must be recognized and overcome if Ontario's infrastructure deficit is to be successfully addressed.

We look forward to working with you to make "Building Together" a success. As a first step, we will shortly contact your staff to arrange a meeting.

Yours very truly,



Carl Bodimeade, P.Eng.
Chair, OCSI

CB/eam

cc. Drew Fagan, Deputy Minister - MoI
Paul West, Chief of Staff - MoI
Stephen Young, Special Assistant, Policy - MoI
Bill Balfour - OWWA
Terry Hardy - OPWA
Catherine Jefferson - OCSI/WEAO
Dave Shantz - MEA
Joe Tiernay - OGRA