

January 25, 2024

Honourable Danielle Smith  
Premier of Alberta  
307 - 10800 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

By email: premier@gov.ab.ca

Honourable Devin Dreeshen  
Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors  
127 Legislature Building  
10800 – 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6  
Government of Alberta

By email: transportation.minister@gov.ab.ca

Dear Premier Smith and Minister Dreeshen,

We are writing to you as a group of committed Calgary stakeholders and collaborators, deeply invested in the future of our city. We have consistently demonstrated our support for the Calgary Airport – Banff Rail (CABR) Project. Your government's backing of regional passenger rail initiatives, including the funding for the Airport Rail Connection Study, has been an encouraging sign of progress. However, we feel it is imperative to address certain critical gaps in the current scope of this study.

A significant concern is the necessity to secure the support of CPKC Rail for the use of their alignment between the airport and Downtown Calgary. This alignment is crucial for the envisaged express rail passenger service, a key component in reviving the heart of our city. CABR's collaboration with CPKC has been ongoing, evidenced by an MOU in place since November 2021 and renewed twice since. However, the lack of progress on the Pinch Points coming into Downtown Calgary is a matter of urgent concern. It is a pivotal factor in maintaining CPKC's engagement and ensuring the validity of any findings from the Calgary Airport Rail connection study.

We are aware of the proposed Pinch Point Study, with a budget of \$1.5 million from the Government of Alberta, matched by the Canada Infrastructure Bank and the project proponents. This funding is crucial to maintain a financial and commercial focus on the project. We urge your government to expedite this study. Delay in this regard poses a significant risk of losing a transformative opportunity for Calgary.

The express rail service from the Calgary Airport to Downtown is not just a transport solution; it is a lifeline for the revitalization of Downtown Calgary, which is currently grappling with a 30% office vacancy rate. This project will bolster our tourism and events economy, providing a much-needed boost to these sectors. Moreover, it aligns perfectly with your government's infrastructure investments, in support of the Event Centre and the expanded BMO Centre, amplifying their impact on our city.

The urgency of this situation cannot be overstated. We, as committed stakeholders, implore you to prioritize and expedite the Pinch Point Study. This is a critical juncture for the CABR Project and the implementation of express rail service from the Calgary Airport to Downtown and your decisive action can make a significant difference. Let us seize this opportunity to elevate Calgary's infrastructure and economy to new heights.

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Yours Sincerely,



Bruce Graham,  
On behalf of the CABR Stakeholders listed below:

Deborah Yedlin, President & CEO  
Calgary Chamber of Commerce

Mark Garner, Executive Director  
Calgary Downtown Association

Sol Zia, Executive Director  
Calgary Hotel Association

Normand Landry, President &  
Managing Director  
Colin Lawson Projects Ltd.

Ron Kurczaba, Principal  
Riddell Kurczaba Architecture

Cindy Ady, President & CEO  
Tourism Calgary

cc: Deborah Yedlin, President & CEO, Calgary Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Garner, Executive Director, Calgary Downtown Association  
Sol Zia, Executive Director, Calgary Hotel Association  
Normand Landry, Managing Director, Colin Lawson Projects Ltd.  
Ron Kurczaba, Principal, Riddell Kurczaba Architecture  
Cindy Ady, President & CEO, Tourism Calgary  
Adam Waterous, Chair, Liricon Capital