

September 15, 2025

Hon. Prabmeet Sakaria
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8

Sent electronically to minister.mto@ontario.ca

Dear Minister,

Re: Timelines for Oversize/Overweight Permits

On behalf of the members of the Toronto and Area Road Builders Association (TARBA), we're requesting your urgent attention to reduce the approval time for oversize/overweight (O/O) permits to a maximum of five business days for the upcoming 2026 construction season. A clear service standard of five business days would balance safety with efficiency, providing predictability for contractors, lowering costs for taxpayers, and keeping projects on schedule.

MTO's current standard to secure O/O permits of three *weeks*, and at times taking even longer, is out of step with the pace of construction delivery and short construction season. It imposes uncertainty and unnecessary costs on contractors and project owners. A sewer crew, for example, costs approximately \$15,000 per day. When crews are left waiting because a permit is delayed, those costs multiply quickly and directly undermine the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of infrastructure delivery.

In addition to MTO permits, contractors must also coordinate municipal permitting processes and timelines. When MTO approvals are prolonged or held up, the entire chain of coordination is thrown off, creating cascading project delays and red tape duplication across levels of government.

The current protracted timelines disrupt MTO's own highway projects, Metrolinx's transit expansions, and critical municipal infrastructure projects across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. The result is higher building costs, delayed completion timelines, and unnecessary barriers to delivering the infrastructure Ontario urgently needs.

We urge the Ministry to establish a firm five-day service standard for O/O permit approvals and to modernize the system through digital permitting tools, process automation, and intergovernmental coordination, with a view of a centralized single window permitting system.

TARBA and its members are ready to work with your officials to identify solutions that will both uphold safety and dramatically improve efficiency.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your leadership in ensuring Ontario's permitting process supports—not delays—the timely delivery of critical infrastructure across the province.

Sincerely,



Raly Chakarova
Executive Director

CC: Megan Skinner, Chief of Staff
Doug Jones, Deputy Minister