

Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

Mr. Yves Giroux  
Parliamentary Budget Officer  
Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer  
900-99 Bank Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A9

MAR 04 2020

**RE: Information Request IR0448**

Dear Mr. Giroux:

Thank you for your letter dated January 28, 2020, in which you requested, under paragraph 79.4 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, certain information regarding VIA Rail Canada Inc.'s High Frequency Rail (HFR) project proposal.

Subsequent to receiving your correspondence, I understand that officials from our respective organizations met to help ensure a timely reply, confirm the scope of this information request, and clarify that it was not the Parliamentary Budget Office's intention to prepare a report at this stage of the project.

Transport Canada is pleased to provide the relevant and pertinent documentation to help inform your office's analysis of the HFR project.

I would note that a number of elements of the HFR project are still being refined by a Joint Project Office comprising representatives from VIA Rail and the Canada Infrastructure Bank. Given your office's review of this project mid-progress, it will be important to recognize the evolving nature of the material you have sought, especially as key aspects continue to be assessed and revised.

Once the Joint Project Office completes its analysis, it is anticipated that Ministers will then examine these findings and consider next steps. I would also underscore that the Government of Canada has not yet taken a formal decision on the overall initiative.

Given the commercially sensitive nature of the material and the evolving dynamic of the HFR project, we request that the documents provided be treated as confidential and do not consent to the public disclosure of the information.

Canada

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marc Garneau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" and last name "Garneau" clearly legible.

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Transport

Enclosures

c.c. The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Finance

Mr. Antoine Brunelle-Côté, Privy Council Office, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,  
Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Mr. Michael Keenan, Deputy Minister, Transport Canada

Ms. Cynthia Garneau, President and Chief Executive Officer, VIA Rail Canada Inc.

Mr. Pierre Lavallée, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canada Infrastructure Bank