



22 June 2016

Mr. Michael Keenan, Deputy Minister
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Tower C, 29th Floor
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0N5
michael.keenan@tc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0224

Michael

Dear Mr. Keenan:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(d) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction at the request of a member or committee of either a House or a joint committee of both Houses.

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information:

- A copy of the Bridge Operating Agreement signed between the Strait Crossing Development Inc. and the Government of Canada, as well as a copy of the most recent Annual Report submitted by Strait Crossing Development Inc.'s Auditor to Transport Canada, as specified under section 8.3 (b) of the Bridge Operating Agreement.

Consistent with the confidential operating data already released to the PBO by Transport Canada in 2014 (http://www.pbo-dpb.gc.ca/web/default/files/files/files/IR0158_Response_TCIC_EN%20ltr.pdf), the PBO commits not to divulge any commercially sensitive data.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 6 July 2016. If we do not hear back from you by that date, we may consider your non-response a deemed refusal and, accordingly, report it to our named committees as instructed.

Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 6 July 2016, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". Could you please attach the requested information separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Jason Jacques can be contacted directly at Jason.Jacques@parl.gc.ca, 613-853-1596.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons is the PBO's primary objective. The degree to which this is possible depends, to a large extent, on free and timely access to quality information held by government departments. In doing so, you are assisting us in better serving the Senate, the House of Commons, and their members.

Yours sincerely,



JDF
Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Mr. Douglas Nevison, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0224