

Submission on Bill 60 – *Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025*

ERO 025-1071 | Comment Deadline: November 22, 2025

While the goal of speeding up infrastructure is understandable, many of Bill 60's amendments would weaken Ontario's environmental protections, reduce transparency, and limit the public's ability to hold decision-makers accountable. These changes risk long-term harm to our water, climate, and communities.

Key Concerns by Schedule

Schedule 1 – Building Transit Faster Act

Cuts notice periods and expands ministerial powers, limiting public and municipal review of environmental and climate impacts.

Needed: Climate and environmental assessments before major transit work and real opportunities for community input.

Schedule 3 – Development Charges Act

Shifts how reserve funds are spent, risking fewer investments in climate-resilient infrastructure.

Needed: Clear direction to support green infrastructure and transparent public reporting.

Schedule 5 – Highway Traffic Act

Restricts municipalities from reducing car lanes for bike or bus lanes.

Concern: Undermines local authority and climate-friendly transportation planning.

Needed: Safeguards for active transportation, local decision-making, and public consultation.

Schedules 7 & 16 – Municipal Act / Water & Wastewater Public Corporations Act

Transfers Peel's water and sewage responsibilities and allows the creation of provincial water corporations with little local oversight.

Concern: Risk to water quality, climate-resilient planning, and accountability.

Needed: Guardrails for water protection, transparent rate-setting, and climate-adapted infrastructure planning.

Schedule 8 – Ontario Water Resources Act

Expands sewage-work provisions that could increase agricultural wastewater.

Needed: Regular monitoring, integration with source-water protection, and climate safeguards.

Schedule 10 – Planning Act

Reduces alignment with provincial land-use policies that protect climate and biodiversity.

Needed: Climate-resilient planning criteria and transparent community input.

Schedule 11 – Public Transportation & Highway Improvement Act

Removes some public rights to challenge highway projects and broadens ministerial discretion.

Concern: Less accountability for environmental harm.

Needed: Climate impact and habitat-protection requirements for major projects.

Schedule 15 – Transit-Oriented Communities Act

Centralizes control of land around transit without guaranteeing sustainable or equitable design.

Needed: Mandatory climate-smart, energy-efficient planning standards.

Conclusion

Ontario needs faster infrastructure but not at the expense of our water, air, and climate future. Bill 60 centralizes power, reduces public oversight, and dismantles key environmental safeguards.

I urge the government to:

- Reinststate climate and environmental impact assessments;
- Embed clear climate, biodiversity, and watershed protections in all planning and infrastructure laws;
- Guarantee meaningful public consultation and transparent decision-making.