



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

To / Destinataire Mayor, Members of Council, and
Members of the Transit Commission

From / Expéditeur Steve Kanellakos
City Manager

Subject / Objet Replacement of Independent Safety Expert for O-Train Confederation Line 1 Date: September 28, 2021

This memo provides a further update on the actions that staff are taking to ensure Rideau Transit Group implements a safe return to service of the O-Train Confederation Line 1 following the derailment on September 19, 2021. The current situation is unacceptable, and the City expects and demands a safe and reliable Light Rail Transit system for the residents and transit customers of Ottawa.

As you are aware, in response to the motion passed at Transit Commission on Monday, September 20, I consulted with Sam Berrada, Regulatory Monitor Compliance Officer (RMCO). STV was retained to conduct an independent, third-party review to confirm the safety of the plan for return to service of the O-Train Confederation Line 1. STV has familiarity with the Confederation Line 1 and has provided consulting services to the City in the past. They were not involved in the design of the Confederation Line and have not provided services to Rideau Transit Group nor their subcontractors. STV is a professional engineering firm with an extraordinary reputation, subject to professional standards and standard duty of care. As with any contract, appropriate conflict management protocols and measures would be adopted and followed to ensure the segregation of the relevant personnel, the confidentiality of their assessment and the objectivity of their work.

That said, I believe the confidence and integrity of the safety of our Light Rail Transit system is paramount and that enhancing public trust in that system is and must be as much of a priority for considerations of confidence and integrity as LRT operations. While the objectivity and expertise of STV is not in question in any way, I also recognize that public trust related to all aspects of the Confederation Line 1 is low right now, and I do not want any perception challenges to get in the way of residents' confidence in the findings and verification of the independent reviewer.

In light of this, I have made the decision not to retain STV as the independent safety expert. I advised STV of this yesterday and they support this decision. I have started to work with Mr. Berrada to obtain a new professional engineering firm, to undertake this work. As I have previously communicated, there are very few firms with the necessary expertise that have not been engaged in some aspect of the City's LRT project, however, best efforts will be made to find a firm that meets the spirit of the Transit Commissions' direction to staff.

This is going to be a complex assignment. The final findings and sign-off of the independent team needs to be accepted with total confidence of our residents and our transit customers. While Transportation Safety Board investigators continue to assess, Mr. Berrada, the RMCO remains engaged and is supporting the City.

Finally, I want to repeat that the City will not accept the return to service for the O-Train Confederation Line 1 until the independent, third-party safety review has been completed and the RTG plan has been accepted. I will provide Members of Council and Commission with an update once the new firm has been retained.

Sincerely,
Steve Kanellakos

cc: Senior Leadership Team
Transportation Services Departmental Leadership Team
Transit Commissioners