



MEDIA RELEASE

South Central Ontario Region Restarts Rail

January 6, 2021, Tillsonburg, ON:

GIO Rail, the Town of Tillsonburg, and SCOR EDC are pleased to announce that, in partnership with CN Rail, rail service from St. Thomas to Tillsonburg will be reinstated through Phase One of the Future of Shortline Rail initiative. Phase two will consist of further development into Norfolk County. The re-establishment of rail service along this line can be credited to the efforts made by the partners who believe in the value rail service provides to the South Central Ontario Region.

The rail track runs approximately 25 miles from St. Thomas, Elgin County through Tillsonburg in Oxford County to Norfolk County. There are a significant number of businesses along the line that rely on access to rail. The intent is to support these businesses, thereby retaining approximately 400 jobs. Additionally, the reinstatement of rail service will provide opportunity for new businesses seeking access to rail.

The Future of Shortline Rail initiative began in November 2020 when GIO Rail, the Town of Tillsonburg, and SCOR EDC entered into a Letter of Intent to develop a business case for re-instating operations along the Cayuga Rail Sub-division. Since then, the aforementioned parties have been engaging with stakeholders, including municipal councils, economic development officers, and businesses with the objective of re-instating sustainable and affordable rail service to benefit the region. SCOR EDC is looking to Transport Canada's National Trade Corridor Fund in order to secure 50% of funds needed to implement infrastructure improvements along the track. Additional supports from the Federal and Provincial governments are also being explored.

"We have been in the rail business for a long time, we see the potential of this track, region and the businesses along this corridor. We are pleased to have not only the support of the businesses who have been without logistics support over the past two years but also the support of the Town of Tillsonburg and SCOR EDC," comments Gerry Gionet, President of GIO Rail.

Mayor of Tillsonburg and Chair of SCOR EDC's Future of Shortline Rail sub-committee, Stephen Molnar comments, "the manufacturing and agricultural businesses along this line of track are very important to the Town and surrounding region. Right now, we are in the business development stages; that means analyzing the economic impact of the rail on the businesses, the businesses on the region, and the costs associated with business development. We are exploring every option for support from other levels of government as well."

"SCOR EDC, has always been about larger regional growth and big picture thinking", comments Robert Chambers SCOR EDC Chair, "we believe that infrastructure is critical to the success of the region."



Fast Facts

- Approximately 25 miles of rail track across the South Central Ontario Region.
- Within Elgin, Norfolk, and Oxford Counties, there is over 1,000 acres of industrial zoned property along the rail line.
- 4 major regional employers along the line, collectively representing over 400 regional jobs.

Media Contacts:

Gerry Gionet, President GIO Rail
Email: gerry.gionet@giorail.com
Phone: 226-927-9391

Mayor Stephen Molnar, Mayor of Tillsonburg
Email: smolnar@tillsonburg.ca
Phone: 519-403-8245

Robert Chambers, Chair of SCOR EDC
Email: robert.chambers@brant.ca
Phone: 519-449-2633