

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 – COUNCILLOR BULLOCH’S UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

From: Dustin Bulloch
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 1:44:19 PM
Subject: Update from Council - Budget, ROMA and ALTO

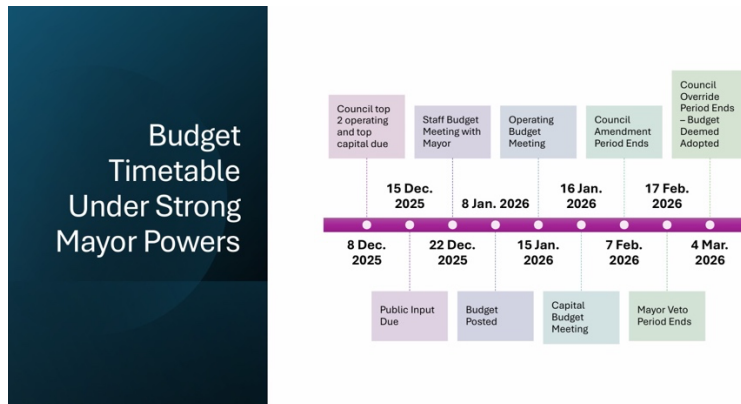
Hello Everyone,

I hope you are doing well despite the depths of winter!

I just want to take this opportunity to give you an update on what’s happening at Council and let you know what I’ve been up to so far in 2026.

1. Council

- a. The business of Council throughout January has largely been focused on reviewing, discussing and amending the 2026 budget. The budget process this year is different than in the past as new Strong-Mayor legislation makes it the responsibility of the mayor to develop and present the budget to Council. The timeline for this year’s budget process is shown below:



You can review and watch the budget meetings here:

- [Special Committee of the Whole - January 15, 2026](#)
- [Special Committee of the Whole - January 16, 2026](#)
- [Committee of the Whole - January 26, 2026](#)

- b. Council has directed staff to include two questions on the ballot for the upcoming 2026 Municipal Election. Discussion on this topic can be found through the link to the January 26th meeting above. A public meeting is scheduled to take place on February 9th for the public to provide comment; please see the Public Notice attached.

2. ROMA – On January 18th – 20th I, along with five other members of Council, attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association annual conference in Toronto. While there I attended a number of events and workshops pertaining to rural municipal issues. Below are links to the workshops and presentations I attended:

- a. Hearing Rural Voices: Data Municipalities Can Use Tomorrow: [University of Guelph Sunday Workshop DEACON \(1\).pdf](#)
- b. The Dirt on Cemeteries: [ROMA January 2026](#)
- c. Rural, Remote and Forgotten: Addressing the Health Human Resources Crisis in Seniors' Care, sponsored by AdvantAge Ontario: [Advantage MOnday am 0.pdf](#)
- d. The Roadmap for Waste – Unpacking Where Rural Municipalities Fit: [Dom North Monday - AM Concurrent - The Roadmap for Waste – Unpacking Where Rural Municipalities Fit \(1\).pdf](#)
- e. Ontario Clean Water Agency: A Lunchtime Dive into Water Solutions: [MarCom/Proposal Update](#)
- f. Unpacking the Implications of a New Code of Conduct: [Dom North Monday PM - Concurrent - Unpacking Implications New Code of Conduct SLIDO \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#)
- g. Ontario 1Call, Unified Mapping of Underground Infrastructure in Ontario: [One Call Breakfast \(1\).pdf](#)

The full conference program, presentations and videos can be accessed here: [ROMA 2026 - Presentations | Rural Ontario Municipal Association \(ROMA\)](#)

3. ALTO High Speed Rail

- a. I attended a public open house in Ottawa on January 22nd hosted by ALTO where they provided an in-depth breakdown of the proposed project. While there was a lot of information available to absorb, these plans are preliminary with much more detail still to be determined. Copies of the information sheets I picked up from the open house are attached above.
- b. ALTO recently announced a proposed southern route between Ottawa and Peterborough which will run straight through Rideau Lakes. Specific details remain unknown, but an interactive map is available for the public to review and leave comments to contribute to their consultation process: [Interactive Map | Alto Project](#). It's important to remember we are in the very early stages of this project and nothing that has been announced is set in stone; we have the opportunity to contribute our thoughts, ideas and concerns as this project is developed over the coming years.
- c. With the new route proposed to pass through Rideau Lakes I expect Council will welcome a delegation from ALTO at some future date; details TBD.
- d. The next public open house in our area will take place at the Perth Lions Club on March 4th between 11:00 am – 3:00pm and 5:00pm – 9:00pm. Please consider attending this event.
- e. More information on this project and the public consultation process can be found here: [Shaping the Canada of tomorrow with high-speed rail | Alto Project](#)

I wish you all the very best and hope the groundhog fails to see his shadow tomorrow and gives us an early reprieve from this long winter!

Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns or require assistance.

Cheers!

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