

# Civil Infrastructure Associations Applaud Ontario's Push for Standardized Construction

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Ontario's leading civil infrastructure associations are applauding the provincial government's announcement to launch consultations aimed at **harmonizing road building standards** across municipalities. This initiative is part of the recently introduced Bill 17 – Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025, a key legislative move to reduce red tape and accelerate infrastructure delivery.

## The Cost of Fragmentation

Ontario's 444 municipalities manage more public infrastructure than the provincial and federal governments combined. However, the lack of standardized implementation of provincial construction guidelines has led to hundreds of differing specifications for roads, bridges, sewers, and watermains.

These inconsistencies:

- Drive up construction costs
- Slow down project delivery
- Increase waste and carbon emissions
- Reduce productivity and material efficiency

According to the [Toronto and Area Road Builders Association](#) (TARBA), the [Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association](#) (GTSWCA), and the [Heavy Construction Association of Toronto](#) (HCAT), aligning municipal practices with provincial standards can result in significant cost savings, faster timelines, and better infrastructure outcomes.

## Industry Voices Strong Support

"This is a real solution to eliminate inefficiencies," said Raly Chakarova, Executive Director at TARBA, noting that harmonized standards can streamline processes and increase the use of cost-effective materials like Recycled Crushed Aggregates (RCA).

Patrick McManus, Executive Director at GTSWCA, added that the move will help address rising construction costs while maintaining flexibility in how projects are designed, financed, and maintained.

Peter Smith of HCAT emphasized the need for predictable and continuous funding, calling for the removal of unnecessary municipal-specific requirements. “There’s no reason why a different asphalt type should be required just because a road crosses a city boundary,” he stated.

### **Next Steps**

The Ontario government will begin formal consultations with municipalities and industry stakeholders in the coming months. The goal: to align municipal construction and procurement standards with provincial guidelines, jointly administered by the Ministry of Transportation and the Municipal Engineers Association.

This initiative is a pivotal step toward cost-efficient, low-emission, and high-quality infrastructure across Ontario—unlocking benefits for communities, contractors, and taxpayers alike.