

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Transportation Standing Committee – Chair & Members

From: Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

Date: May 30, 2014

**Subject: Passenger Rail motion of May 7, 2014**

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At the May 7, 2014 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee (TSC), a Councillor Request for Consideration form from Councillor Watts was before the Committee.

The following motion was approved:

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mason, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request the Mayor write a letter supporting the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCMs') ongoing efforts to revitalize passenger rail service across Canada. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

On May 12, 2014, the Federal Minister of Transportation announced that a tentative agreement was reached between VIA Rail and CN Rail, which will allow VIA Rail to continue to offer its Ocean passenger rail service between Bathurst and Miramichi as part of its Montreal-Halifax service. As a result of this announcement, a letter from the Mayor is no longer necessary.

HRM staff consulted with FCM staff to determine whether there were other initiatives that Council could support with regard to passenger rail, and there are currently none.

No further action will be taken on this motion at this time.