



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 30, 2026

The Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Transportation and Transit
Government of British Columbia

The Honourable Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Government of British Columbia

VIA EMAIL: Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Farnworth and Minister Boyle,

Re: Exemption request for the Kelowna General Hospital Transit Oriented Area (TOA) designation

On behalf of Council, I am writing following a resolution adopted by Council at our June 15, 2026 public meeting regarding the Province's designation of Kelowna General Hospital as a Transit-Oriented Area (TOA). Council requests that the Abbott Street Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) be excluded from the Provincial regulations. The current TOA overlaps with the City's HCA, creating policy uncertainty and tension between the preservation of some of our community's heritage buildings and future growth.

The Abbott Street corridor is one of Kelowna's historic neighbourhoods, with some of the city's earliest residential properties, dating back to 1904, still intact. Its HCA designation reflects decades of community investment, policy development, and stewardship to protect its distinct character, mature streetscape, and cultural value. The area is also a vibrant community corridor, including a popular Active Transportation Corridor used by commuters and recreational cyclists.

The City of Kelowna has been an early adopter and leader in implementing Provincial housing legislation to increase housing supply and advance transit-oriented development. However, in listening to residents' concerns, Council views the current TOA designation as confusing and difficult to regulate given the context of the established heritage protections for this neighbourhood.

We respectfully request that the Province expedites a decision on an amendment to the Kelowna General Hospital TOA designation to exclude the Abbott Street HCA.

We value our ongoing collaboration with your ministries and look forward to your response.

Sincerely on behalf of Council,

Mayor Tom Dyas



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