



Jim Watson
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May 1, 2014

Mr. Steve Del Bosco
Interim President and CEO
VIA Rail Canada
3 Place Ville Marie, Bureau 500
Montréal QC H3B 2C9

RE: VIA Rail Canada letter dated April 29, 2014

Sent via email and post

Dear Mr. Del Bosco,

Thank you for your letter dated April 29, 2014, regarding the incidents that occurred on April 25 and April 28, 2014, at the VIA rail crossing on Fallowfield Road.

In response to your request, I want to assure you that OC Transpo and staff will take every measure required to ensure the safe operation of our vehicles by the more than 1600 operators who provide public transit in the City of Ottawa. Also, Ottawa City Manager, Kent Kirkpatrick, was in touch with Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, Chief Corporate and Legal Officer of VIA Rail, shortly after receipt of the correspondence on April 29. Subsequently, on the morning of Wednesday, April 30, staff from the City of Ottawa, VIA Rail (Paul Boisvenue) and Railterm (Aaron Branston) convened a meeting/conference call to review both incidents.

I understand that a conclusion reached by all present at this Wednesday meeting was that the crossing at Fallowfield did, in fact, go into "fail-safe" mode on April 28. However, it was also determined that this was not caused by contact of a crossing gate with an OC Transpo bus, as stated in your letter and press release of April 29. Rather, it occurred because a separate crossing gate at the intersection was stuck out of position due to contact with the device's windbreak.

In light of this new information and assessment, the City feels that there is a need for VIA Rail to correct its previous conclusions, as conveyed in your letter and press release. The City is formally requesting that VIA Rail acknowledge this new information and correct the public record today.

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I agree with and share your position that we must work cooperatively to resolve all issues related to rail crossings in the interest of the safety of the residents that we both serve. In that spirit, we are looking forward to the public technical briefing on the safety audit that you spoke to during your presentation last Friday and I suggest that this briefing should be held as soon as possible.

In conclusion, let me again underscore the City's ongoing commitment to working collaboratively and cooperatively with VIA Rail Canada as we achieve a resolution to these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Watson", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa

c.c. John Manconi, General Manager, Transit Services, City of Ottawa
Kent Kirkpatrick, City Manager, City of Ottawa
Ottawa City Council