

A Resolution Submitted by the Metropolitan Community of Québec, QC



**RECOGNIZING PASSENGER MARINE TRANSPORTATION AS A STRATEGIC DRIVER OF
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY**

May 2026

WHEREAS the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes constitute a major natural infrastructure for shoreline communities, offering significant potential for passenger transportation and access to activity hubs.

AND WHEREAS several shoreline communities along the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes have existing marine infrastructure that could be leveraged for the development of passenger ferry services.

AND WHEREAS passenger marine transportation can help enhance public transit offerings in complementarity with existing networks, from a perspective of intermodality and optimization of intershore and intermunicipal travel.

AND WHEREAS ferry services represent a sustainable mobility option that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ease road congestion and improve the resilience of transportation systems.

AND WHEREAS the development of passenger marine transportation services can also generate positive impacts in terms of economic development, the vitality of waterfront communities and the enhancement of recreational and tourism potential.

AND WHEREAS in a context of climate transition, growing intermunicipal travel and increasing pressure on road networks, cities and regions are being called upon to diversify their sustainable mobility solutions.

AND WHEREAS shoreline communities that are members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative/Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent have implemented ferry services integrated into broader mobility networks, although their long-term sustainability remains dependent on varying funding conditions.

AND WHEREAS the development of such services involves significant challenges, notably with respect to regulatory frameworks, financing, coordination among relevant stakeholders and integration with existing transportation systems.

AND WHEREAS several Cities Initiative members face similar challenges and could benefit from a coordinated approach to advancing passenger marine transportation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Cities Initiative recognizes passenger marine transportation as a strategic component of sustainable mobility, territorial development and infrastructure resilience for shoreline communities along the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes.
- The Cities Initiative documents existing initiatives and best practices among its member cities and promotes networking and knowledge-sharing among municipalities interested in this field.
- The Cities Initiative advocates to relevant governments on issues related to the development of these services, particularly regarding funding, regulatory frameworks and support for studies and pilot projects.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: the Canadian Minister of Transport, Steven MacKinnon, the Ontario Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Sarkari and the Quebec Minister of Transport, Benoit Charette.