A Resolution Submitted by the City of St. Catharines, ON, and Repentigny, QC

ENHANCING PASSENGER CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY ACROSS THE GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER BASIN

May 2024

WHEREAS municipal governments acknowledge that the maritime transportation of people offers substantial economic, environmental and social advantages within the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.

AND WHEREAS improving connectivity and mobility for facilitating the movement of people and goods across the freshwater basin, both across bodies of water and across borders, is of paramount importance, thereby contributing to economic growth and fostering regional integration.

AND WHEREAS Ontario's new Maritime Strategy, Québec's existing Maritime Strategy and the Government of Canada's Blue Economy Strategy underscore the critical need to enhance marine transportation infrastructure for passenger travel and promote sustainable economic development within the freshwater basin.

AND WHEREAS various passenger or commuter transport forms – such as water taxis, ferries, hydrofoils, hovercraft, various-size cruise ships and other innovative water and ice transportation modes – hold promising potential for enhancing connectivity and mobility within the freshwater basin.

AND WHEREAS collaborative endeavors between the Canadian and U.S. governments, along with relevant stakeholders, are indispensable for exploring and executing measures aimed at bolstering cross-border transportation options and facilitating seamless mobility across the freshwater basin.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- Canada and the United States federal and state/provincial governments should prioritize initiatives to improve connectivity and mobility within the basin, which may include, but are not limited to:

    - Collaborating on the development of integrated transportation networks linking major urban centers and communities along the freshwater basin

    - Providing support for the expansion of passenger services (e.g., ferry and water taxi operations) and other forms of commuter transport to offer efficient and sustainable alternatives for passenger travel

    - Investing in infrastructure upgrades and modernization projects to enhance the efficiency, safety and accessibility of maritime transportation facilities and terminals across the freshwater basin

    - Promoting the adoption of green technologies and sustainable practices to mitigate the environmental impact of cross-border transportation activities within the freshwater basin

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls upon relevant federal, provincial and state government agencies to work with industry stakeholders, Indigenous communities and non-governmental organizations to collaborate on research, planning and implementation efforts to enhance cross-border connectivity and mobility within the freshwater basin

- The Cities Initiative encourages the establishment of bilateral working groups and forums to facilitate information exchange, best practice sharing and coordination of cross-jurisdiction and cross-border transportation initiatives within the freshwater basin

- The Cities Initiative remains committed to actively monitoring progress and contributing to initiatives to enhance cross-border connectivity and mobility within the freshwater basin

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution will be distributed to: the Government of Canada Minister of Transportation and the Governments of Québec and Ontario’s Ministers of Transportation.