

16 MARCH 2026

5-MINUTE GAZETTE



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SDG COUNTIES WILL AUTHOR LETTER ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL

SDG Counties council at its meeting of March 16 voted to provide a comment letter on the potential impact of high-speed rail in our region. Councillors agreed Alto High Speed Rail should work closely with local communities to ensure the sustainability of VIA Rail routes through Alexandria and Cornwall, including a commitment to maintain and enhance local services.

 [FULL MEETING](#) - YouTube search: 'SDG Counties March 16, 2026'



CASS BRIDGE TENDER AWARDED

A \$3.5-million tender to complete the rehabilitation of the Cass Bridge on County Road 31 was awarded by SDG Counties Council. The tender covers a full-deck replacement and conversion to semi-integral abutments - eliminating the current expansion joint system. The work will impact local traffic. SDG Counties will be providing updates on those impacts.

 [FULL MEETING](#) - YouTube search: 'SDG Counties March 16, 2026'

MICROSURFACING TENDER

SDG Counties will complete nine kilometres of microsurfacing work in 2026. SDG Counties Council on March 16 voted to approve a \$381,000 tender to pay for the work. Micro-surfacing is an effective and preventive maintenance application that seals and waterproofs the existing road surface while correcting minor defects.

 [FULL MEETING](#) - YouTube search: 'SDG Counties March 16, 2026'



17 FEBRUARY 2026

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NEW FEES AND CHARGES

The SDG Counties Fees and Charges By-law is updated each year using the Consumer Price Index to ensure that fees and cost-recovery for services provided by the upper-tier are kept in line with inflation. These fees are generally rounded to the nearest \$5 increment to simplify implementation. Occasionally, new types of fees are introduced to ensure that the costs for certain services are recovered.

 [FULL MEETING - YouTube search: 'SDG Counties March 16, 2026'](#)



ROADSIDE PLANTING MEETING

SDG Counties will convene another Committee of the Whole meeting April 7 at 7 p.m. to further explore a roadside tree planting program currently under review. The meeting will hear from residents in support of the program, which sees trees planted to promote roadside safety. SDG Counties is also in the midst of creating a new agricultural committee.

 [FULL MEETING - YouTube search: 'SDG Counties March 16, 2026'](#)

10,000 TREES AVAILABLE

South Nation Conservation (SNC) and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) are once again offering free native or naturalized trees to residents this spring. In partnership with municipalities across the region, the two conservation authorities will distribute a combined 10,000 trees and shrubs in 2026.

 [READ MORE - sdgcounties.ca](#)

