

# Donate Now!



Dear ,

The last few weeks have been busy ones for public transportation, with lots of important events. Please find below our January electronic newsletter, which summarizes recent events and the Transport Action (TA) response to them. We welcome any comments or feedback.

The news items are summarized below.

- VIA Rail selected Siemens to supply its new fleet for the Quebec-Windsor corridor. This action is strongly supported by TA. [See full analysis on our website.](#)
- Ontario Minister of Transportation Jeff Yurek issued a statement on the Toronto Relief Line subway. We support his prioritization of this line. [See our response letter on our website.](#)
- Discussions are starting between the Ontario government and Toronto on upgrading the Toronto subway system. As stated in our November letter, TAO will be following this very closely.
- VIA rail service to Churchill has resumed. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce has issued a report "Moving Forward: Towards a Strategic Approach to Ontario's Transportation Needs". It covers three pillars of opportunity - two of which relate directly to our objectives: (1) transit planning governance and (2) moving goods and people by rail. The report endorses many of the positions that Transport Action Ontario (TAO) has taken, including improving intercommunity passenger rail in Northern and Southern Ontario and establishing region or province-wide transportation planning authorities. [See the report by clicking here.](#)

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Also, here are new bills that have been introduced that we'll be following very closely (and intervene if necessary to advocate for your best interest).

- In mid-November, Ontario introduced Bill 57 "Restoring Trust, Transparency and Accountability" Act, which will amend over 4 dozen provincial statutes. One of the most controversial is to narrow the scope and alter the position of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario by moving the function into the Auditor General office. This proposal has generated a lot of negative reaction. Less prominent are proposed amendments to the Metrolinx Act which will broaden its geographic area, narrow its scope to transit only and give more power to the Minister. TAO will be tracking this very closely, and intervening if necessary.
- In mid-December, the Ontario government introduced Bill 66 "Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act". While the Bill proposes the amend numerous pieces of legislation, the greatest public concern has been on proposed changes to the Planning Act that would weaken greenbelt and drinking water protections, if a municipality passes an "open for business" bylaw. Although it has received less publicity, there is also a provision that such a bylaw can disregard a Ministerial transportation planning policy statement. TAO will continue to follow Bill 66 and its implications for public transportation.

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Also, as a reminder, earlier this month we sent you a request for donations to help fund TA's activities in advocating for public transportation.

**If you have not made a donation yet**, please consider helping us by sending us urgently needed, tax-deductible contribution to our organization. We're a registered charity that relies entirely on membership dues and donations to fund our work.

**Donate Now!**

**If you already made a donation**, on behalf of Transport Action, I would like to thank you. We rely on generosity of donors such as yourself and are truly grateful for your support in continuing our work.

Thank you for allowing us to continue what we do.

*Bruce Budd*

Bruce Budd, President  
Transport Action Canada

**P.S:** Transport Action relies entirely on membership dues and donations to fund its advocacy work. Please consider making a year-end donation so that we can continue our work for the upcoming year to get closer than ever to ensuring accessibility to transportation for all Canadians.

**Any amount--** \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200... Even \$10 will be deeply appreciated, and makes a real impact in our ability to continue our work.

# Donate Now!

If you prefer to send us a cheque, cheques may be mailed to:

-- **Transport Action Canada** at P.O. Box 858, Station B, Ottawa K1P 5P9

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