

This newsletter is produced by Transport Action Canada for all members of the Transport Action family. If you are a member of Transport Action Atlantic, Ontario, Prairies or BC, you are automatically a member of Transport Action Canada. The regional organizations have chosen to issue a joint electronic newsletter covering all of Canada.



Dear ,

Happy New Year from all of us at Transport Action!

Who knew that in 2020 we would still be having to fight for adequate train and bus services to connect communities across our country, but there is some very good news for Southwestern Ontario, where years of campaigning and lobbying are beginning to get results. *Thank you to all our grassroots members who worked to make this success story possible.*

Rural Transit Renaissance for Southwestern Ontario

After several years of patient lobbying by rural citizens, transit activists, and local councils, 2020 is set to be a banner year for rural transit in Southwestern Ontario. Many of the projects funded through the Community Transportation Grants will come to fruition, and new bus services are expected to be in place by summer 2020.

<http://ontario.transportaction.ca/rural-transit-renaissance-for-southwestern-ontario>



This month we also give a warm welcome to Steve Boyko from Winnipeg and Jack Peake from Vancouver Island as new members of Transport Action Canada's board, strengthening our representation from Western Canada.

We have a simple message for the federal government this year: **Reverse all the cuts to train services since 1979!** This would put Canada back on the path to being a country united by train.

With your support, we'll be reaching out to both ministers and critics as this new parliamentary mandate starts, setting out Transport Action's priorities to restore services and reconnect communities across Canada.

High Speed Rail Discussed on CBC Radio "The House"



Bombardier Zefiro 380. Photo by [Björn König](#)

High Speed Rail (HSR) in Canada was discussed on the CBC national radio show "The House" on Saturday, December 21. Interviews were held with Peter Miasek of **Transport Action Ontario** and with Professor Nadine Ibrahim of University of Waterloo. The show can be found at:

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/podcasts/current-affairs-information/the-house/>

The December 21 show was entitled "China turns up the heat and Canada pushes back". The rail portion starts at 18:50 and runs to 28:10.

Peter summarized Transport Action's position on HSR, which is that believe that Canada's basic intercity train and bus needs should be met first, with the High Performance Rail approach used in the USA as a good template for delivering practical improvements in passenger service on a reasonable timeline. Prof. Ibrahim's remarks also covered Maglev and Hyperloop technologies, which we believe have no role to play in Canada in the near future.

Cancellation of Hamilton LRT



On December 17, the Ontario government abruptly cancelled the Hamilton LRT project, citing anticipated large cost increases over previous projections, based on an unreleased report from unidentified consultants. **Transport Action Ontario** issued a statement expressing our disappointment and identifying the negatives arising from this decision, and has followed up with a letter to the Auditor General, who is already looking into how reasonable the province's cost estimates were. [Our statement can be viewed here.](#)

The province has indicated that it is still committed to investing \$1 billion in Hamilton transit, and has promised to set up a Hamilton Transportation Task Force to report back before the end of February with a list of alternatives to the LRT. The task force is yet to be appointed.

The [Hamilton Light Rail Initiative](#) is asking people to write to Premier Ford requesting reconsideration.

Winnipeg's SW Transitway Completed



Plaza BRT Station. Photo by Steve Boyko

Phase 2 of Winnipeg's Southwest Transitway is largely complete, and is scheduled to open in April 2020, following testing and driver training.

The Southwest Transitway is the first of several proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors in the city. The transitway has been constructed in two separate phases, and will run from downtown Winnipeg southwest to the University of Manitoba.

Read the fully story with a system map on our website:

<https://www.transportaction.ca/regions/prairies/winnipegs-southwest-transitway-complete/>

The transitway buses also serve the train station. *Now if only there were a few more inter-city trains on the Prairies for it to connect to...*

Le Groupe TRAQ moves into Charny Station

Le Groupe TRAQ (Transport sur Rail au Québec) is Transport Action's affiliate in the Quebec City area, whose roots date back to series of pro-rail action committees which succeeded in creating a railway workshop company and a dedicated oil train from Lévis, Québec to Montréal in the 1990s.

For some years TRAQ has run a documentation centre with railway archives, books and artefacts in a building loaned by the City of Lévis. For more space and visibility, TRAQ has long hoped to move to the near-vacant Charny station. In 2019, this became a reality. VIA Rail agreed to loan the premises to TRAQ and to add a second daily Québec-Montréal train stop each day.

TRAQ's objective was to open a museum along with its archives at Charny, and it was able to move its effects into the station on December 19th 2019. TRAQ will be redecorating the interior in January and the display will be completely

installed in February, all the while keeping the waiting room open for the public. The complete installation is open for public visits on the first Saturday of each month.

The new address for TRAQ is 2326, rue de la Gare, (Charny) Lévis, Québec G6X 1Z3 phone 418-955-2466.

Transportation Equity Summit

On December 9th, [Transport Futures](#) held a summit on Transportation Equity at the University of Toronto, discussing the increasing demands are being put on the transportation system by a growing and diverse population with different incomes, needs and abilities.

This subject is closely aligned with **Transport Action's** campaigns to ensure that all Canadians have access to reliable rail and bus services to gain access to jobs, public services, and leisure activities with family and friends.

Despite significant investments, Canada continues to fall behind in ensuring equitable access to public transport the greatest number of people .

Guest speakers included Steven Farber, University of Toronto; Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, TTC; Dennis Kar, Dillon Consulting; Gregory Shill, University of Iowa; David King, Arizona State University; Shagithya Deivendran, City of Toronto; Jennifer Dean, University of Waterloo; Daniel Firth, WSP Canada; and Shavon Edwards, from the City of Detroit.

Madelin Burt-D'Agnillo of **ATU Canada** also produced a report on the event:

<https://www.atucanada.ca/blog/transport-futures-equity-summit>

Transportation Newsround

Closure of bus depots part of a wider struggle to maintain services in western Canada

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/closure-of-bus-depots-on-vancouver-island-part-of-industry-wide-struggle-ceo-1.5405891>

Decision looming on Cape Breton Railway

<https://www.capebretonpost.com/news/local/decision-looming-on-railway-subsidy-minister-387768/>

Manitoulin Island bus service to return

<https://www.northernontariobusiness.com/industry-news/transportation/manitoulin-bus-service-hitting-the-road-this-spring-1915162>

St. John marks 25 years without passenger trains

<http://k100.ca/blog/history-100-25-years-ago-the-day-passenger-train-whistles-went-silent-in-saint-john/>

Edmonton Valley Line West survives last-minute cut attempt

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/valley-line-west-lrt-expansion-lives-on-after-call-from-councillor-to-rescind-approved-funding>

Ottawa exploring purchase of ex-CN Beachburg and Walkley subdivisions

<https://capitalcurrent.ca/city-of-ottawa-exploring-purchase-of-two-abandoned-south-end-railway-lines/>

Arriva UK deploys new technology to support deaf passengers

<https://www.railway-technology.com/features/ga-how-arriva-rail-is-helping-deaf-commuters-on-the-london-overground/>

We love to hear what you think! We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter. Reply to this email with any thoughts you may have, and your own local transport and advocacy updates.

Thanks for reading!



Terry Johnson
President, Transport Action Canada

P.S: Transport Action Canada is funded by grassroots members and donors like you. Support our mission to ensure access to bus and rail services for to all Canadians by making a contribution.

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!

Our membership is our strength. You can help by recruiting a friend to join our fight for better public transportation across Canada...

Join Transport Action

If you prefer to send us a cheque, cheques may be mailed to:
Transport Action Canada, P.O. Box 858, Station B, Ottawa ON K1P 5P9

STAY CONNECTED:

