



Transport Action News - August 2021



The Canadian near Canmore in 1982 - Photograph: Roger Puta Collection

Passenger Rail to return to Calgary?

Hello ,

It has been more than 30 years since Calgary and the Bow Valley saw scenes like the one above, and since passengers could enjoy the scenery of southern Alberta from the comfort of a scheduled passenger train. That public transport drought might soon come to an end, thanks to two recent announcements: *Prairie Link* a partnership between Aecom and EllisDon, aims to build a new high-speed line between Calgary and Edmonton by 2030, and the Canada Infrastructure Bank has moved the Calgary-Banff passenger rail project to the next phase of development. You can read about both of these developments on our growing Prairie Region website.

Federal Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra recently toured the southwestern Ontario, holding events in London, Windsor and Brantford announcing that the federal government is committed to working towards enhancing and modernizing intercity passenger rail in the region, following

up on the High Frequency Rail announcement for the corridor east of Toronto.

On a more practical note, Londoners recently spotted a GO train making test runs from Kitchener. Metrolinx began examining the option extending the service in 2019, then put the work on hold during the pandemic, and now appears to be moving ahead swiftly. We expect this service would pick up the slack of the early-morning VIA #86 commuter service that was cut by the Harper government in 2011, something our members in the region have been campaigning for ever since.

However, the we have to ask why Ontario seems able to act decisively to pick up federal slack in southwestern Ontario, while not moving with equal speed to pick up its own slack and restore the *Northlander* before 2022 in accordance with Premier Ford's promise.

Ontario's newly deregulated bus market is also heating up, with competing operators of core routes, but predictably few feeder routes as of yet. The new operators are making frequent adjustments to their schedules as they test the market, and with some of the new bus frequencies already fully booked there's clearly travel demand to meet, especially with VIA Rail's corridor frequencies yet to be fully restored. See details of these new services in our stories below.

As I write this, a federal election has just been called. Please help us get our message that all Canadian deserve and need affordable and reliable public transport to all parties and candidates by making a donation using the button below.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada

Support our
Campaigns

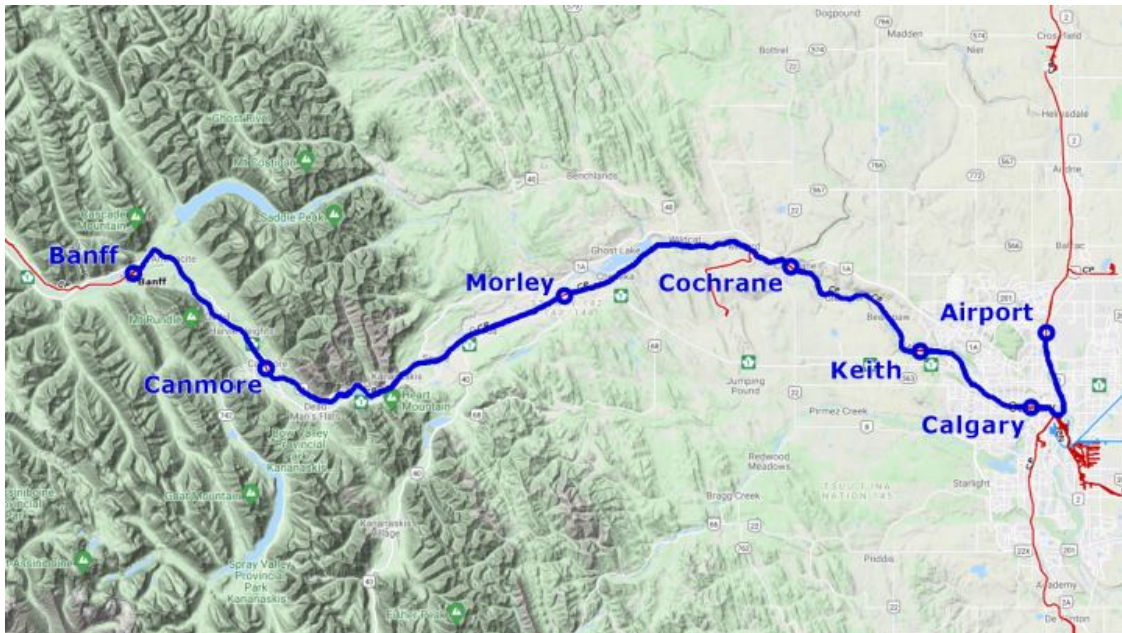


Prairie Link signs MoU for Calgary-Edmonton High Speed Rail

On July 8, 2021, Alberta Transport signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Prairie Link, a consortium led by engineering firms Aecom and EllisDon, to advance the development of High Speed Rail between Calgary, Red Deern and Edmonton, a project...

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prairie.transportaction.ca



A step forward for Calgary-Banff passenger rail

The return of passenger rail to southern Alberta moved a step closer on July 15, 2021, when the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) announced that it has moved the Calgary-Banff passenger rail proposal to the next phase of development and is...

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Motorcoach operators compete for SW Ontario passengers

Following the deregulation of Ontario's highway motorcoach services in June 2021, three motorcoach operators have launched services between Windsor, London and Toronto, with stops at other cities across southwestern Ontario. Note: The schedules...

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Toronto-Ottawa motorcoach services resumed

Following the cancellation of Greyhound Canada services and the deregulation of intercity motorcoach services in Ontario, two companies have begun serving the Toronto-Kingston-Ottawa route. Note: The schedules and routes described below are...

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Atlantic Transport News - August 2021

Welcome to the August edition of Atlantic Transport News! Here's a look at what you'll find in this edition: NOVA SCOTIA ELECTION APPROACHES, PARTIES WEIGH IN ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES Polling day in Nova Scotia is fast approaching, and each of...

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Encouraging Steps for Passenger Rail in Southwestern Ontario

Following years of benign neglect by senior governments, southwestern Ontario is finally in the passenger rail spotlight! In mid-July, Federal Minister of Transport Alghabra

toured the region announcing that the federal government is committed to ...

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Improving Scarborough Bus Connectivity

As a result of the impending shutdown of the Scarborough RT, there will be a need to reconfigure many of the TTC bus routes in Scarborough. This offers a major opportunity to improve passenger convenience and connectivity by emphasizing a more...

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Transportation Newsround

Liberals announce plans for new 'high frequency' rail lines from Toronto to Quebec City

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/high-frequency-rail-project-1.6090930>

VIA HFR: How Viable? How Close?

<https://www.railwayage.com/passenger/high-performance/via-hfr-how-viable-how-close/>

Multi-billion dollar high-frequency rail project will seek bids in fall

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/politics/multi-billion-dollar-high-frequency-rail-project-will-see-bids-in-fall-transport-minister-says/wcm/f760cf9e-bc8e-41f8-9b21-8009422e1355>

Up to 12 billion for a "modern" train between Quebec and Toronto (French)

<https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/national/2021-07-06/jusqu-a-12-milliards-pour-un-train-moderne-entre-quebec-et-toronto.php>

David Collenette: Via Rail's new plan is bold but can be even better

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2021/07/07/via-rails-new-plan-is-bold-but-can-be-even-better.html>

Local leaders hint Southwestern Ontario not left out of VIA Rail improvements

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/local-leaders-hint-southwestern-ontario-not-left-out-of-via-rail-improvements-1.5500720>

Opinion: Let's start building transit people will actually use

<https://www.tvo.org/article/lets-start-building-transit-people-will-actually-use>

Bradford Bypass and Highway 404 extension threaten greenbelt

<https://www.bradfordtoday.ca/local-news/province-shows-no-regard-for-health-of-lake-simcoe-group-says-3952079>

Coalition des Gaspésiens pour l'avenir du train welcomes Ocean return (French)

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1804031/retour-train-ocean-gaspesie-pandemie-via-rail-coalition-sylvain-roy>

Ontario Northland meets with South River mayor

<https://www.saultstar.com/news/local-news/ontario-northland-to-meet-discuss-rail-passenger-service>

Missing the bus in Renfrew County

<https://www.thespec.com/ts/news/canada/2021/07/12/missing-the-bus-transportation-post-greyhound-in-renfrew-county.html>

Portage CN station on endangered structures list

<https://www.portageonline.com/local/local-landmark-makes-top-10-endangered-structures-list>

Sackville station building faces uncertain future

<https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/news/local/future-of-historic-sackville-train-station-still-in-limbo-218170/>

Plans for passenger train linking Calgary airport and Banff come into sharper focus

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/banff-calgary-airport-jason-kenney-passenger-train-alberta-1.6104658>

Tshuettin Rail Transportation receives \$55 million through Canada Infrastructure Bank, Transport Canada and the government of Québec

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/passenger/indigenous-owned-and-operated-railway-to-be-modernised/59496.article>

Valley Line LRT begins train testing in Edmonton's Strathearn area

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8043461/edmonton-valley-line-lrt-southeast-strathearn-train-testing/>

Collingwood studies demand-responsive transit option

<https://www.collingwoodtoday.ca/local-news/transit-study-eyes-options-for-on-demand-transit-public-sessions-coming-up-3962044>

Thunder Bay completes GO bilevel order

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/alstom-plant-completes-latest-order-for-bilevel-commuter-cars-2-photos-3966594>

Hamilton receives federal ICIP funding for new buses and bus garage

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8039527/500-million-hamilton-public-transit-infrastructure/>

Hamilton all-day GO service to start August 7

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8060381/hamilton-all-day-go-train-service/>

Union Station Bay Concourse reopens after six-year rebuild

<https://blog.metrolinx.com/2021/07/27/brand-new-bay-concourse-opens-to-customers-inside-union-station-today/>

Vancouver Skytrain bridge maintenance requires single-track operation

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/TransLink-to-upgrade-SkyTrain-bridge--64162

Federal government commits \$400M for Capital Line LRT expansion into southwest Edmonton

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8063408/edmonton-capital-line-lrt-federal-funding-announcement/>

Infrastructure Bank plans more zero-emission bus investments

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2021/07/27/news/infrastructure-bank-agency-spend-zero-emission-buses>

Cochrane, AB Mayor optimistic about future passenger rail service

<https://cochranenow.com/articles/optimism-growing-for-passenger-rail-service>

Southwest Community Transit leaders demonstrate connectivity across county lines

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/07/28/get-on-the-bus-middlesex-county-leaders-kick-tires-on-expanded-transit.html>

USA: Northeast Corridor Commission unveils 15-year upgrade plan

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/NEC-Commission-unveils-15-year-plan-to-upgrade-passenger-rail-service--64036

USA: Amtrak exploring regional service between Tucson and Phoenix, AZ

<https://www.kold.com/2021/07/28/amtrak-track-tucson-phoenix-service/>

UK: Campaign for Better Transport reviews decarbonization plan

<https://bettertransport.org.uk/blog/better-transport/governments-transport-decarbonisation-plan-scratch>

UK: Bus privatisation left people unable to access basic needs like work, education and healthcare

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/jul/19/uk-bus-privatisation-has-caused-poverty-and-job-losses-says-un>

UK: HybridFLEX prototype battery-diesel multiple-unit launched

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/uk/hybridflex-prototype-battery-diesel-multiple-unit-launched/59560.article>

Europe: Railways face months of recovery after major flooding

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/floods-close-rail-lines-in-europe-for-months-or-longer/>

Transport Action Canada is funded by grassroots members and donors like you. Your support enables us to continue our mission to ensure access to bus and rail services for to 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.

Join or Renew
Now

If you would prefer to join or make a donation by mail, please [download our printable membership form](#) and post it to us at the address below with a cheque.

Thank you again for your continued support!

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