



Transport Action News - September 2021



High Frequency Rail enjoys cross-party support

Hello ,

As a non-partisan advocacy group for sustainable public transportation, we're nevertheless pleased to note that all the major federal parties are making promises to get shovels in the ground and build VIA Rail's High Frequency Rail project. Whoever wins the election on Monday, we intend to hold them to this, while continuing to scrutinize the project details as they emerge and advocate for clear government support for VIA's desire to make both Kingston and Drummondville regional hubs to continue offering effective service along the existing corridor too. *Please sign a letter to your candidates using the link below to remind them that this promise matters.*

As stated when the HFR project was first proposed, modernizing the Quebec-Windsor corridor is intended by VIA Rail leadership as the first step in rejuvenating the entire national network. With the existing long distance fleet in need of replacement by 2030, ensuring that Canada gets a new long distance train fleet that can carry on the tradition and legacy of the *Canadian* and the *Ocean*, ensure the future of remote services, and enable VIA to start rebuilding inter-

city services in eastern and western Canada, will become our focus in discussions with the incoming government.

Another file that should be on the Minister of transport's desk when parliament reconvenes and that deserve swift action is the *Mask-wa Oo-ta-ban* project to reinstate remote-service passenger rail in the Algoma region. We're also running a letter writing and social media campaign on this issue.

Whoever your Member of Parliament is after the election, please reach out to them to discuss public transportation. Whether the desire to bridge the rural-urban divide, the need to reduce traffic congestion in our cities, wanting to help people get to work, or the need for safe transportation as a pillar of reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous communities resonates most with your local politician, we're seeing the need to bring Canadians together with reliable, effective and climate-friendly infrastructure increasingly recognised across party lines.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada

Tell your candidates: Build Modern, Fast and Frequent Passenger Rail



After years of study, the Government of Canada finally announced the approval of VIA Rail Canada's High Frequency Rail proposal in July. Make sure your future MP knows that this first step in modernizing VIA Rail's network from coast to coast needs to move forward swiftly.

[Sign Your Letter](#)

Reinstate the Algoma Passenger Train

Send a letter to your local candidates in the federal election to let them know that the *Mask-wa Oo-ta-ban* "Bear Train" matters to you that it is time to reinstate remote service funding and support the business plan presented by the Missanabie Cree First Nation.

Action: Eastern Ontario Transportation Survey

Ontario has launched an online survey to gather valuable local input on regional transportation needs and priorities in Eastern Ontario. Feedback from the survey will be used to help develop a long-term plan that will improve the transportation network in the region.

The survey will remain open for six weeks until September 23, 2021. We urge all our members and readers provide input.

Give your
feedback

News



VIA Rail increases corridor services August 30

A new schedule takes effect August 30, 2021 that reinstates many train services that has been suspended due to the pandemic, but key connections still are missing in the Quebec-Windsor corridor, so Transport Action has raised these concerns with...

[Read more](#)

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Integrated Transit Service for BC Sunshine Coast Communities

New partnership between BC Transit, Coast Connector Bus Company, and BC Ferries aims to bring integrated public transit service to remote Sunshine Coast communities with coordinated schedules and fares, which could become a model for more...

[Read more](#)

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TAO responds to GGH Transportation Discussion Paper

Transport Action Ontario has provided detailed comments to the Ministry of Transportation on this paper, identifying positives, concern areas, and additional topics to include.

[Read more](#)

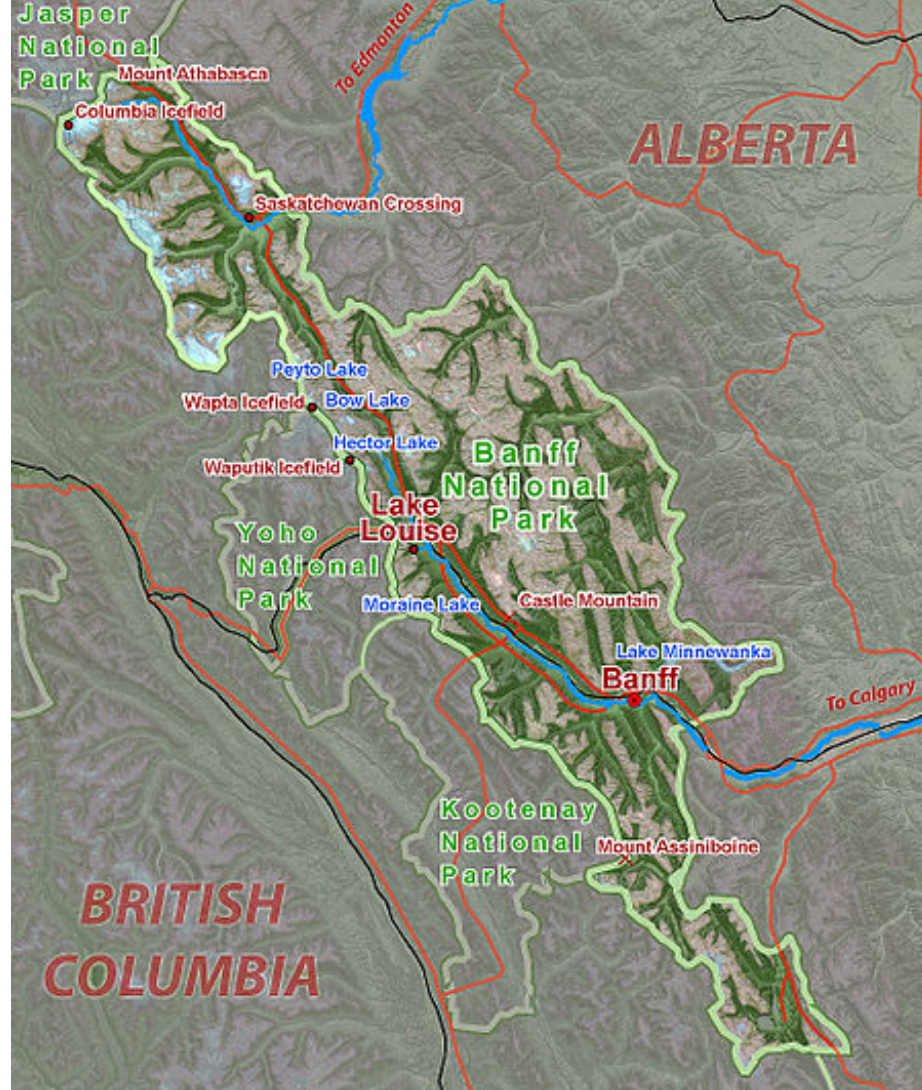
ontario.transportaction.ca



Atlantic Transport News - September 2021

Passengers swarm toward the Renaissance cars at the rear of VIA's westbound Ocean on September 1. The bare-bones once-a-week schedule has now been extended until at least November 15.

[Read more](https://transportactionatlantic.ca)
transportactionatlantic.ca



Unlocking Rail Tourism to Benefit the Canadian Economy

Transport Action has written to four federal ministers, including the Minister of Economic Development, pointing out the convergence of tourism and mobility. Federal support for VIA Rail benefits Canadian travellers and our tourism industry.

[Read more](#)

ontario.transportaction.ca

Transportation Newsround

Opinion: Cynthia Garneau on High Frequency Rail

<https://www.thewhig.com/opinion/letters/high-frequency-rail-reimagining-the-way-we-live-and-travel>

Government committed to improving SWO rail service, says minister

<https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/liberals-committed-to-improving-rail-service-says-minister>

Ottawa invests \$40 million to help stabilize Churchill Line

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/ottawa-promises-additional-40m-to-northern-railway-575045082.html>

NCC endorses Gatineau transit connection on Wellington Street

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ncc-endorsement-tramway-connection-1.6140070>

Grey County approves roadmap to expand transit service in 2022

<https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/grey-county-approves-roadmap-to-expand-transit-service-in-2022>

Innisfil Receives MZO to Advance “The Orbit” Transit Hub

<https://barrie360.com/town-of-innisfil-receives-mzo-approval-to-advance-the-orbit-transit-hub/>

Free B.C. transit for kids under 12 starts in September

<https://www.citynews1130.com/2021/08/09/bc-transit-free-kids/>

Grand Prairie on-demand bus and transit overhaul set for 2022

<https://www.vermilionstandard.com/news/public-transit-overhaul-and-on-demand-bussing-on-track-for-early-2022>

Intercommunity transit continues to expand in SW Ontario

<https://www.theobserver.ca/news/local-news/inter-community-transit-continues-to-expand-in-sw-ontario>

GO Kitchener Line tunnels under highway 401 reach substantial completion

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/rail/infrastructure/article/21233189/highway-401-and-409-rail-tunnels-reach-substantial-completion>

GO trains make test runs between Kitchener and London

<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/go-train-testing-tracks-in-stratford-as-province-looks-to-expand-in-southwestern-ontario-1.5539205>

Sault Ste Marie get new bus fleet

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/how-we-roll-six-photos-of-the-saults-new-city-buses-4221978>

Metrolinx and City of Toronto advance SmartTrack stations

<https://blog.metrolinx.com/2021/08/17/new-agreement-with-city-of-toronto-helps-bring-new-smarttrack-stations-closer-to-reality/>

Vancouver businesses hope short-term SkyTrain construction pain will pay off with long-term gains

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/broadway-businesses-1.6145696>

Massey Tunnel replacement to feature bus lanes and separated bike lanes

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/eight-lane-tunnel-to-replace-existing-george-massey-tunnel-by-2030-b-c-transportation-ministry-1.5551732>

Father challenges rule that requires kids to be accompanied by an adult to ride free on Skytrain

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/translinks-new-policy-to-allow-free-rides-to-children-under-12-flawed-says-father>

Niagara Region seeks transit feedback to plan improvements

<https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/life/2021/08/21/city-officials-seeking-public-feedback-about-niagara-falls-transit-service-improvements.html>

Kelowna transit returning to pre-pandemic levels

<https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/343469/BC-Transit-service-returning-to-pre-pandemic-levels-in-Kelowna>

TransitApp adds premium subscription service

<https://www.iphoneincanada.ca/news/transit-app-launches-transit-royale-subscription-service/>

Oakville created youth freedom pass for transit

<https://oakvillenews.org/oakville-community-news/freedom-pass-youth-oakville-transit/>

London puts brakes on road widening, turns to transit to address climate emergency

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/six-lane-wonderland-road-widening-may-be-stopped-after-climate-change-action-plan-flexes-muscle-1.5561510>

Lethbridge transit relaunches as CityLink with revised route network

<https://www.mylethbridgenow.com/20924/new-revamped-lethbridge-transit-routes-launch-august-25/>

Whitby trialing autonomous shuttle to GO train station

<https://www.railwayage.com/passenger/commuterregional/ride-the-wave-to-the-go-train/>

Pembroke, Ontario seeks public input on bringing back transit services

<https://www.pembrokeobserver.com/news/local-news/pembroke-launches-survey-to-gather-input-on-public-transit>

Laval launches public transit app for people with intellectual disabilities

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/it-s-a-big-step-laval-launches-public-transit-app-for-people-with-intellectual-disabilities-1.5551233>

Six-month pilot project for community bus linking Cardinal, Prescott and Augusta to Brockville, ON

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/river-route-public-transit-launches-aug-30-connecting-seaway-communities-from-cardinal-to-brockville-1.5564532>

USA: Charlotte, NC streetcar launches with off-the-wires operation through downtown

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/CATS-launches-CityLYNX-Gold-Line-streetcar--64464

USA: Amtrak's Chicago to Toronto service could become reality

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/new-passenger-rail-service-from-toronto-to-chicago-could-become-reality-1.5568152>

Italy: Bologna approves first line in proposed tram network

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/projects-and-planning/bologna-tram-plan-approved/59795.article>

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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