



Transport Action News - October 2021



Photo: Siemens Venture train in Montreal - VIA Rail Canada Twitter

Hello ,

Last month brought the long-awaited arrival of the first complete Siemens Venture/Charger consist in the new VIA Rail corridor fleet and a second locomotive, both of which were delivered to Montreal at the end of September. The first in an order of 32 new trains, this consist will soon be joined by a second set and both will begin testing between Ottawa and Coteau through the winter.

With the federal election now behind us and the balance of power in Ottawa little changed, we're expecting the government's plan to start procurement for High Frequency Rail, announced in the summer, to remain on track for later this fall, together with the subsequent announcement that the federal government would explore expanding VIA services in Southwestern Ontario. The key concerns and issues we're urging the government to address therefore also remain the same: ensuring the future of VIA Rail's long-distance services; the restoration of passenger services on Vancouver Island and in the Algoma Region; and rebuilding a viable motorcoach network that integrates with passenger rail rather than working at odds with it.

During the election period, Transport Action ran several online campaigns targeting these issues and using social media advertising to reach voters in key communities with our message of investment in public transportation to build an inclusive and prosperous economy.

Away from the federal election, Hamilton's LRT project is now firmly back on track, with the conclusion of a binding agreement between the city, Metrolinx and the province. GO Transit has resumed its Niagara commuter service and will extend one Kitchener Line train daily to London, starting on Monday October 18. However, there will be no improvement to the once-per week frequencies of the *Ocean* and the *Canadian* before November 15 at the earliest, and we continue to speak up about what we believe is a missed opportunity as travel demand rebounds, as well as the fact that this is a disservice to the communities along the lines.

Unfortunately, Ottawa's Confederation Line LRT derailed for a second time over the past month, leading to a second extended shutdown. Our Vice-President, David Jeanes, has been interviewed by numerous media outlets about both the technical aspects of the situation and possible future changes to the way the service is managed. There are also lessons to be learned from the way procurement for the project was handled, mostly behind closed doors, that will hopefully be applied to provide greater transparency around future major projects, including High Frequency Rail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry", written in a cursive style.

Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada

Thank you for supporting our campaigns



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

**Tell your candidates: Sarnia
needs VIA Rail**



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

**Reinstate the Algoma Passenger
Train**



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA



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

It is time for fast, clean, electrified passenger rail to bring Canadians
together and to help grow our economy.

News



VIA Rail Should Expand Maritime Service, Says...

MONCTON - The President of Transport Action Atlantic was "quite disappointed" by Via Rail's decision to not expand service for the east coast route between Halifax and Montreal. Ted Bartlett was displeased by the crown corporation's announcement...

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huddle.today



GO Transit Initiating Rail Service to London

On September 18, 2021, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation announced that an extension of its Kitchener GO Train service to Stratford, St Marys and London will commence on October 18. The pilot service, costing \$2.6M/yr, will have one...

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ontario.transportation.ca



Atlantic Transport News - October 2021

Welcome to the October edition of Atlantic Transport News! Here's a look at what you'll find in this edition: A NEW LIBERAL CHAMPION FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION? It's most unusual after an election for MPs on the government side to comment on any...

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Transportation Newsround

Saskatoon shelves BRT plans, blames pandemic

<https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/city-delays-saskatoons-bus-rapid-transit-blames-pandemic>

GO restores Niagara commuter train, adds Hamilton trips

<https://www.chch.com/go-transit-adding-more-trips-between-toronto-hamilton-and-niagara/>

Functional Transit Winnipeg urges Manitoba Premier to accept transit funding through the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/transit-advocacy-group-wants-premier-to-secure-federal-infrastructure-funding-1.5576653>

Belleville transit grows service area

<https://www.intelligencer.ca/news/local-news/belleville-transit-launches-new-bus-route>

Grande Prairie approves new transit routes and schedules

<https://everythinggp.com/2021/09/07/council-approves-new-transit-routes-schedules/>

City of Pembroke exploring restoring bus service and going electric

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/city-of-pembroke-looking-to-bring-in-new-public-transit-system-1.5576334>

Kirkland Lake continues fight for passenger train service

<https://www.saultstar.com/news/town-continues-to-fight-for-rail-service>

Hamilton city council signs MoU with Metrolinx

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/lrt-1.6167672>

One-phase construction to Langley delays planned Skytrain extension opening to 2028

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/local-news/the-surrey-langley-skytrain-wont-open-until-2028-4356037>

Renée Amilcar takes over as the City of Ottawa's new general manager of transit services

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/transit-services-ottawa-new-general-manager-ren%C3%A9e-amilcar-1.6190928>

Repairs at Gravenhurst station ready for Northlander restoration?

<https://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/10474086-what-s-going-on-here-waterproofing-drain-installations-at-gravenhurst-train-station/>

Ontario Northland meets with South River council to discuss possible Northlander stop

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/ontario-northland-south-river-council-discuss-rail-passenger-service>

Metrolinx confirms London GO train schedule and fares

<https://dailyhive.com/toronto/toronto-london-go-train-ticket-price>

Via Rail's Maritime service is back on aging N.B. track

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/via-rail-maritime-passenger-service-back-1.6177088>

MTO still pushing Highway 413 plans

<https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10476882-transportation-ministry-invites-residents-for-an-overview-webinar-of-the-gta-west-highway-sept-29/>

Advocates make transit an election issue in St. John's, NL

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/st-johns-transit-1.6185723>

VIA welcomes new Siemens train

<https://www.railwayage.com/passenger/intercity/via-rail-welcomes-new-siemens-trainset/>

Canadian Pacific unveils orange locomotive with reconciliation message

<https://www.thegoldenstar.net/news/cp-hopes-to-spark-truth-reconciliation-conversation-with-orange-locomotive/>

France: The decade of the TGV

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/high-speed/macron-puts-high-speed-projects-back-on-track-in-decade-of-the-tgv/59936.article>

Connecting Europe Express marks European Year of Rail

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/policy/connecting-europe-express-sets-off-on-26-country-tour/59821.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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