



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

Transport Action News - November 2021



Photo: Panorama Car - One of only three accessible single-level domes in the VIA fleet

Hello ,

Transport Action salutes the VIA Rail and CN crews who worked together to get a rescue train through to Hope, BC after the recent storms, and all the crews working tirelessly to restore infrastructure across British Columbia.

With parliament now returning to Ottawa, we expect the release of VIA Rail's updated corporate plan, which has been under wraps since the summer because it must be presented in the House of Commons before publication. We're hoping plan this turns attention to the considerable needs and opportunities to strengthen VIA Rail operations beyond the corridor, including the need to replace the long distance fleet before the end of the decade, and the need to expand the handful of accessible sleeping car bedrooms and accessible domes currently in operation.

We also welcome the release of a timeline of the restoration of VIA Rail's services to pre-pandemic levels by next summer, although we wish it could be sooner and recognise the inadequacy of the previous tri-weekly and bi-weekly schedules for long distance routes.

A major political flash point has emerged in Ontario, where Premier Doug Ford has chosen to make a commitment to build the controversial Highway 413 an election issue for next summer. Transport Action Ontario was featured in a long article in the [Toronto Star](#), which noted that the Province has been conspicuously silent on the capital cost. TAO's main point was that the likely capital cost is about \$8bn and that it would be far more prudent for the Province to negotiate reduced tolls for trucks to use the existing Highway 407 toll road. TAO issued a briefing note on this in April, which can be viewed [here](#).

We preferred 2018's Ontario election pledge to restore the Northlander train, and at the time of writing, a test train is making its way back from Toronto to North Bay, which is, at last, welcome visible progress toward delivering the long sought-after restoration of passenger rail in Northeastern Ontario.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada



VIA Rail service resumption plan announced

VIA Rail has announced the schedule for the remainder of its gradual service resumption following the Covid-19 pandemic, with a second frequency for the Ocean being added beginning in December 2021 and operations across the country to return to...

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"Northlander" Delays and Transportation Equity

Transport Action Ontario has written a letter to Ontario Minister of Transportation Mulroney expressing our concern with delays to reinstating passenger train service between Toronto and Northeastern Ontario. The speedy introduction of GO Train...

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Updated Submission to SW Ontario Transportation Task Force

With the SW Ontario Transportation Task Force about to wrap up its work, Transport Action (TAO) has made a final submission, updating our earlier briefing note with costings for network upgrades and to recommend running Sarnia trains via Brantford...

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Milwaukee – Toronto 28,000,000+ People connected



Chicago to Toronto - more than a line on a map

Transport Action Ontario was a co-presenter, along with the Michigan Association of Railway Passengers, of a paper at the Rail Users' Network virtual mini-conference on October 15, 2021. The conference theme was "You can't get there from here"....

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Atlantic Region News

VIA Rail will add a second Ocean frequency starting Dec 8th, but tri-weekly service won't be fully restored until next summer; transit ridership rebounding; PEI takes first steps to toward island-wide public transit.



TABC reviewing Transport 2050 Plan

TransLink released its draft regional transportation strategy for Metro Vancouver over the next three decades on October 12th. Transport Action BC is reviewing this document and will provide feedback. Initial impressions are that it requires greater ambition, project prioritization, and cost detail.

[Draft Transport 2050 Plan](#)

Federal EA for Quebec Third Link

Opponents of the "Third Link" road tunnel project between Quebec and Lévis welcomed the announcement made on October 29th by the Honorable Steven Guilbeault, Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change designating the project for a federal environmental impact assessment.

[Read More](#)



Transportation Newsround

Full Speed ahead for HFR?

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/septembre-2021/full-speed-ahead-for-high-frequency-rail-in-the-busy-canadian-corridor/>

Ottawa hires rail safety experts TRA to review LRT system

<https://jumpradio.ca/news/8241107/ottawa-lrt-safety-expert-hired/>

Ontario government won't say how much money Highway 413 would waste

<https://www.thestar.com/business/2021/10/08/the-hugely-controversial-highway-413-will-cost-taxpayers-billions-but-just-how-much-the-province-wont-say.html>

Nova Scotia to Maine ferry to resume in 2022

<https://halifax.citynews.ca/local-news/canada-to-us-ferry-service-set-to-resume-in-2022-after-three-year-hiatus-4480934>

Opinion: Brampton needs better transit

<https://www.thestar.com/local-brampton/opinion/2021/10/08/brampton-needs-better-public-transit-to-move-forward.html>

Kitchener GO corridor upgrades allow increased speed through Guelph

<https://www.narcity.com/toronto/go-train-rides-are-about-to-get-a-whole-lot-faster-on-one-line-starting-this-month>

Phil Verster defends four-hour once-daily London GO train project

<https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/critics-of-four-hour-go-trip-to-to-missing-big-picture-metroinx-head>

Eglinton Crosstown LRT tracks completed through tunnelled section

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2021/10/12/a-closer-look-at-eglinton-crosstown-lrt.html>

Loose bolts blamed for September LRT derailment

<https://boom1019.com/news/8284247/ottawa-lrt-derailment-loose-bolts-workmanship/>

Translink releases 30-year plan for Metro Vancouver

<https://rock101.com/news/8261549/translink-30-year-plan/>

Crossing safety upgrade for Parry Sound

<https://www.parrysound.com/news-story/10504768-overhaul-coming-to-dangerous-stretch-at-parry-sound-s-double-train-tracks/>

Greyhound USA cross-border service to resume

<https://www.theurbanist.org/2021/10/27/cross-border-transit-returning-with-greyhound-service-in-november/>

Late November return for Ottawa LRT possible

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/mid-december-lrt-return-confederation-line-city-1.6226099>

North Shore Skytrain would remove 50,000 cars from the bridges daily

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/north-shore-connects-burrard-inlet-rapid-transit-skytrain>

London Transit partners with MagnusCards to make conventional bus service more accessible

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8333298/london-transit-magnuscards-partnership/>

Ontario Northland continues to work on Northlander business case

<https://www.mywestnippissingnow.com/44152/ontc-continues-to-update-business-case-for-return-of-passenger-train-service/>

Book Review: Confessions of a recovering traffic engineer

<https://commonedge.org/confessions-of-a-recovering-traffic-engineer/>

Germany: Siemens, DB launch 'world's first' automated, driverless train on shared tracks

<https://www.mayerthorpefreelancer.com/news/siemens-db-launch-the-worlds-first-automated-driverless-train>

Austria: Refurbished OeBB NightJet Couchette unveiled

<https://www.railjournal.com/fleet/first-refurbished-nightjet-couchette-revealed/>

USA: Brightline unveils new last mile options including electric car rideshare

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/alt-mobility/shared-mobility/press-release/21244163/brightline-brightline-unveils-brightline>

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.

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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!

