



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

Right on time: VIA's new corridor fleet officially unveiled and ready to start winter testing



Siemens SC42 locomotive 2200

Hello ,

There was no wrapping paper, but it felt like an early Christmas in Ottawa last week, where we saw VIA Rail's new Siemen's Venture trains formally unveiled and we were able to tour the first of the new trains prior to its forthcoming winter testing, which will take place between Ottawa and Coteau. The first all-new trains for VIA Rail Canada in 40 years will begin to take over from the LRCs, Renaissance, and even older stainless steel equipment on corridor services beginning late next year, with all 32 new trains expected to be delivered by the end of 2024.

I was joined at the event by Harry Gow and David Jeanes, both past presidents of Transport Action / Transport 2000 who have been involved in advocacy for long enough to



From left: David Jeanes, Treasurer and Past President of Transport Action; Terry Johnson, President of Transport Action Canada; Cynthia Garneau, President and CEO of VIA Rail Canada; and Eve-Danièle Veilleux, Senior Advisor, Government and Community Relations, VIA Rail Canada. Photo: Harry Gow.

We are particularly pleased to see VIA Rail's recently increased emphasis on accessibility and inclusion taking shape in this new fleet, including power operated lifts and enough spaces for passengers using mobility aids to travel together. See our full story below for further details.

recall the introduction of the LRC trains in the summer of 1981, and together we were able to discuss the new corridor fleet and some of the other achievements, opportunities and challenges facing VIA Rail with VIA board members and senior management. The federal government was represented at the event by the Hon. David McGuinty MP.



The media has legitimately highlighted the fact that these trains aren't currently intended for use outside the favoured Quebec-Windsor corridor, pointing out that the rest of Canada has been "Grinched" on passenger rail for the past several decades. However, even with healthy order books for Amtrak and state supported services in the USA, we have been told that Siemens Mobility has the capacity, if called upon, to deliver even more of these trains quite quickly. This would be an interesting possibility if calls for the restoration of intercity passenger rail corridors in western Canada are finally heeded.

Wishing you a happy holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry".

Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada



Welcome Aboard The New Fleet

On November 30, 2021, VIA Rail formally unveiled the first train in its new corridor fleet to assembled media, politicians, advocates, and fans in Ottawa. We take a look inside the Siemens "Venture" trains for the first time.

[Read more](#)

www.transportaction.ca

Northlander train reaches Toronto



Ontario Northland operated a test train south to Toronto November 22nd, leaving North Bay at 05:55 and returning north in the evening, marking one more step toward the eventual resumption of regular train service to the Muskokas and northeastern Ontario.

Corina Moore, CEO of Ontario Northland and Tracy MacPhee, Director of Passenger Services, greeted long serving advocate and Northeastern Ontario Rail Network co-chair Lucille Frith at the stop in Huntsville.

The updated business cases for the service is still being worked on, but the Ontario government has already announced its intent to choose Timmins as the northern terminus of the service. There is dismay in Cochrane over the lack of consultation on this question!



Boosting Intermodal Truck/Train Freight to Reduce GHG...

With the conclusion of the COP26 conference, the issue of Canada's Greenhouse Gas transportation emissions, from both personal and freight transportation, is front-and-centre. Transport Action Ontario has written a letter to the federal...

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ontario.transportaction.ca



OCTranspo giving free rides

To attract passengers back to transit in Ottawa after the pandemic and following two long and disruptive interruptions in LRT service this fall, OCTranspo will be free trips for all passengers for the month of December.

LRT services on the Confederation line have been operating normally since late November.

TABC advocates improvements to cross-border services

While the BC and Washington state governments have recently signed a memorandum of understanding regarding a future High Speed Rail line, Transport Action BC has also been working with All Aboard Washington on proposals for near-term incremental improvements to the service.



Transport Action Ontario condemns \$1bn missed opportunity

Speaking to the Toronto Star, TAO president Peter Miasek reiterated the need for transit investments and redesigned truck tolls rather than more highway building to solve the GTHA's traffic woes.

[Read more](#)
www.thestar.com

Transportation Newsround

Ottawa LRT derailment attributed to maintenance issues

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/lrt-derailment-incomplete-maintenance-1.6237515>

CN becomes first customer for Wabtec battery-electric loco

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/cn-to-purchase-wabtec-battery-electric-locomotive/>

Guelph Transit proposes grid system to shorten trip times

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/guelph-transit-proposing-switch-to-grid-system-4727640>

Ontario announces Timmins as northern terminus of future Northlander

<https://www.nugget.ca/news/revived-passenger-rail-to-end-in-timmins-mulroney>

<https://www.timminstoday.com/local-news/ontario-names-timmins-as-train-terminal-site-4730599>

Cochrane mayor express disappointment

<https://www.mytimminsnow.com/59762/cochrane-mayor-frustrated-and-disappointed-with-terminus-decision/>

Opinion: Highway 413 the lazy solution

<https://oakvillenews.org/opinion/highway-413-the-lazy-man-s-solution-for-401-congestion/>

Sault Ste. Marie new tour train station gives hope for eventual return of passenger rail

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/new-train-station-encouraging-for-group-seeking-return-of-passenger-service-4744628>

Lethbridge tweaks transit network based on public feedback

<https://lethbridgenewsnow.com/2021/11/16/changes-to-lethbridges-citylink-transit-network-start-wednesday-nov-17/>

ETS ditches plan to privatize and outsource bus cleaning

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/100-jobs-saved-after-city-halts-privatization-of-bus-cleaning-staff-1.5672125>

Restart of Amtrak passenger rail service to Canada delayed until 2022

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/amtrak-return-to-service-1.6252614>

Transit picks up slack as gas shortages hit west coast in wake of storm damage

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/island-gas-stations-run-short-but-transit-ready-to-pick-up-the-slack-4780000>

GO Bus service to Peterborough suffers slowdown

<https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/2021/11/16/double-trouble-for-peterborough-go-transit-bus-riders.html>

Mark V Skytrain mock-up unveiled for public feedback

<https://buzzer.translink.ca/2021/11/take-a-sneak-peek-of-translinks-new-mark-v-skytrain/>

Leaked letter reveals faults in REM trains

<https://www.railjournal.com/passenger/metros/faults-found-in-new-montreal-electric-network-trains/>

Outgoing Quebec City mayor criticizes controversial 3rd link project in exit letter
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/r%C3%A9gis-labeaume-pens-letter-against-third-link-tunnel-1.6247057>

François Legault open to investing more in the Quebec City tramway (fr)
<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1841241/francois-legault-bruno-marchand-maire-quebec-tramway-tunnel>

Ontario Northland runs test passenger train from North Bay to Toronto
<https://www.nugget.ca/news/ontario-northlander-on-test-run-to-union-station-in-to>

Electric cars aren't enough to hit climate targets, we need public transport too
<https://theconversation.com/electric-cars-arent-enough-to-hit-climate-targets-we-need-to-develop-better-public-transport-too-171330>

Amtrak "Thruway" bus to Vancouver resumes December 1st
<https://www.theurbanist.org/2021/11/19/amtrak-cascades-to-add-cross-border-bus-service-in-december-train-service-in-2022/>

Guelph active transportation advocates seek to balance increased rail service and safe crossings
<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/active-transportation-advocates-concerned-about-potential-rail-crossing-closures-4787983>

Niagara Region votes for unified transit system
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/niagara-one-transit-system-1.6263945>

VIA Rail transfers former M&O alignment to UCPR
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/prescott-russell-recreational-trail-secure-1.6257433>

USA: Stadler FLIRT DMUs for Arrow service leave the factory
<https://www.railwaygazette.com/traction-and-rolling-stock/san-bernardino-arrow-dmu-delivery/60351.article>

UK: New hydrogen train collaboration
<https://www.railwaygazette.com/uk/alstom-and-eversholt-to-co-operate-on-new-build-hydrogen-trains-for-the-uk/60324.article>

Germany: Battery Electric trains bridge electrification gaps
<https://www.railwaygazette.com/passenger/battery-emus-ordered-to-replace-diesel-on-partially-electrified-network/60416.article>

Sweden: First refreshed X2000 enters service
<https://www.railtech.com/rolling-stock/2021/11/17/first-renewed-swedish-x2000-train-enters-service/>

Belgium: Passenger organisations sound alarm over rail maintenance
<https://www.railtech.com/infrastructure/2021/11/17/lack-of-belgian-rail-maintenance-is-risk-for-train-passengers/>

UK: High speed rail freight service aims to overtake trucks for logistics
<https://www.ft.com/content/1ae200db-edce-406f-aaf7-07a21a98c9f6>

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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