



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA



New VIA Rail corridor fleet test train at Ottawa

Seeking your views on High Frequency Rail

Hello ,

On Wednesday March 9th, Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra announced the “next step” in the development of High Frequency Rail (HFR). This was followed by the publication of a Request for Expressions of Interest. This document seeks feedback from private sector partners interested in designing and constructing HFR and then assuming operation of both HFR and existing VIA Rail corridor services between Windsor and Quebec for a term of 30 years or longer. This represents a significant change in scope from the proposal originally presented by VIA Rail in 2015.

[Read the Request for Expressions of Interest \(PDF\)](#)

The Request for Expressions of Interest defines high frequency rail as an electrified network with class 7 (125 mph / 200 km/h) track, up from class 6 (110 mph / 170 km/h) as previously proposed, and specifies travel time and service level targets, but does not provide any new details regarding routing into the city centres. The document does not provide answers to the questions about the project that we had previously posed to VIA Rail and the Joint Project Office, although the Minister’s announcement appeared to rule out shared use of the Mount Royal Tunnel.

HIGH FREQUENCY RAIL Request for Expressions of Interest



The Request for Expressions of Interest is expected to be followed by several more phases of procurement, including a co-development phase, following similar model to the GO Expansion project, with the new route opening in the early 2030s.

We would like to hear opinions from our members and supporters to ensure our reaction to these new developments reflects the consensus of your views. Therefore, please read the document above and share your thoughts using the survey link below:

[Share Your Views on HFR](#)

Transport Action board members have already begun a series of meetings with the High Frequency Rail team at Transport Canada to seek clarifications and understand the reasoning behind these changes, and how they fit into a strategic vision of the future of rail and passenger transportation in Canada.

As a result of these meetings, we now understand that the route design produced by the Joint Project Office will serve as a reference case upon which the private sector is invited to improve, and that the government is committed to continuing to serve the existing corridor routes, addressing one of our longer-standing concerns. These meetings will continue over the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada



Québec City and High Frequency Rail

With the High Frequency Rail Project now envisaged to include electrified passenger trains, access to the Gare du Palais in Québec City is one of the design challenges ahead. The history of passenger rail service to Québec City suggests that...

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Atlantic Transport News - March 2022

Welcome to the March 2022 installment of Atlantic Transport News! Here's a look at

what you'll find in this edition: PEI TAKES GREEN INITIATIVE AGAINST SOARING FUEL PRICES Canada's smallest province is leading the way in offering its residents a...

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Incentivizing the Private Sector to Invest in Rail...

Recent border blockages and on-going truck driver shortages are indicative of weakness in Canada's national transportation system. Senior Canadian economists have called for increased Canadian business investment to remain competitive as a...

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Transportation Newsround

Additional bridge and track work will be required to reopen Gaspésie Railway

<https://www.newswire.ca/fr/news-releases/rehabilitation-du-chemin-de-fer-de-la-gaspesie-la-mise-en-service-du-troncon-entre-caplan-et-port-daniel-gascons-prevue-pour-2024-814137994.html>

TTC staff recommend scrapping monthly pass, implementing fare capping system

<https://www.cp24.com/news/ttc-staff-recommend-scrapping-monthly-pass-implementing-fare-capping-system-1.5767698>

CP agreement with Amtrak will enable new trains

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/cp-amtrak-agreement-details-cooperative-blueprint-for-more-trains-analysis/>

Sundre, AB backs Calgary-Edmonton passenger rail plan

<https://www.mountainviewtoday.ca/sundre-news/sundre-gives-expression-of-support-for->

[passenger-rail-proposal-5030239](#)

Vancouver Island public transportation networks growing and connecting

<https://nanaimonewsnow.com/2022/02/10/island-wide-public-transportation-possible-as-community-links-grow/>

Ontario Greens back "Link The Watershed" proposal

<https://kitchener.citynews.ca/local-news/ontario-greens-committed-to-developing-inter-regional-transit-between-waterloo-region-guelph-and-brantford-5041457>

MCFN and CAPT working for return of passenger trains following Watco purchase of Algoma line

<https://www.saultstar.com/news/watco-sale-finalized-groups-confident-trains-will-get-back-on-track>

Ontario ready to invest \$300 million to Keep Transit Moving

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2022/02/16/ontario-to-commit-more-than-300m-to-bail-out-transit-agencies-sources-say.html>

Museum and residential development planned for E&N Roundhouse in Victoria

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/little-locomotive-revives-vic-west-railyard-5073835>

Owen Sound cutting transit service to hourly

<https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/city-approves-hourly-transit-service-but-theres-a-mood-to-do-more>

Municipal staff in York Region told to sign NDAs over Premier Doug Ford's subway plans

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2022/02/20/municipal-staff-in-york-region-told-to-sign-nondisclosure-agreements-over-premier-doug-fords-subway-plans.html>

Translink testing battery electric buses with on-route fast charging

<https://buzzer.translink.ca/2022/02/translink-tests-next-generation-of-battery-electric-buses/>

T3 Transit welcomes PEI net-zero plan

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-net-zero-climate-plan-reaction-1.6358198>

Niagara region moves to form regional transit commission, start integration

<https://www.wellandtribune.ca/news/niagara-region/2022/02/23/regional-transit-shifting-gears.html>

Montreal's first Black bus driver honoured

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montreal-stm-first-black-bus-driver-1.6365848>

Brampton transit puts 10 routes back in service, restores other to full schedule

<https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/10576938-brampton-transit-puts-10-routes-back-in-service-restores-other-to-full/>

Second Prince Rupert terminal under consideration

<https://railwayage.com/intermodal/%ef%bf%bcport-of-prince-rupert-eyes-second-terminal/>

Regional District of Central Kootenay reviewing transit planning process

<http://thenelsondaily.com/news/report-forthcoming-changing-process-regional-transit-decisions>

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/ottawa-lrt-public-inquiry-will-hear-from-the-public-in-may-1.5798295>

BC Transit introduces new route between Nanaimo and Duncan

<https://www.cheknews.ca/bc-transit-introduces-new-route-between-nanaimo-and-duncan-959084/>

Bus shortage leads to Saskatoon Transit route, trip cancellations

<https://saskatoon.ctvnews.ca/bus-shortage-leads-to-saskatoon-transit-route-trip-cancellations-1.5799165>

Germany: DB to invest Euro 13.6 billion in 2022

<https://www.railtech.com/infrastructure/2022/02/03/deutsche-bahn-earmarks-record-figure-for-rail-infrastructure-investments/>

UK: Cycling charity launches ambitious plan to boost UK-wide path network

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/feb/16/cycling-charity-launches-ambitious-plan-to-boost-uk-wide-path-network>

USA: Caltrain's Bouchard emphasizes electrification, recast service

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/article/Caltrains-Bouchard-emphasizes-electrification-recast-service--65844

USA: With funding and cooperation, Toledo could be passenger-train hub

<https://www.toledoblade.com/local/transportation/2022/02/28/toledo-passenger-train-hub-funding/stories/20220228119>

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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