



TRANSPORT ACTION  
CANADA

## Transport Action News - May 2022



*Siemens Charger 2201 with a test train at Kitchener, Photo contributed by [@Canardiain](#) (Twitter)*

### **VIA Rail services returning to pre-pandemic levels while HFR procurement risks cause concern**

Hello ,

Following the completion of trial runs through Southwestern Ontario, the equipment for VIA Rail's new fleet has now headed to the National Research Council's site in Ottawa for further evaluation. The acceptance of the new fleet and further deliveries therefore still seems to be on schedule for this fall. The new VIA schedules for the summer [have been released](#), with long-distance services and most corridor services mostly returning to pre-pandemic levels. However, there is a conspicuous gap: The early-morning trains from London and Kingston that are used by commuters and day trippers to Toronto. We're pressing both VIA Rail and Transport Canada for an explanation.



We continue to question the government's decision to seek a private sector partner to operate High Frequency rail and VIA's other corridor services. Transport Action believes that private partners will encounter significant risks in operating the HFR project as envisioned in recent procurement documents. We have identified 14 risk areas and have suggested risk mitigation measures to partially reduce these risks, [detailed in the article below](#). Transport Action urges the government of Canada to return to the original plan, inviting private partners to design, build and maintain the new infrastructure required for HFR, but keeping operations public.

Over the last month, Transport Action BC has been busy, urging the province to think twice about planned transit fare increases and meeting with All Aboard Northwest to discuss cross-border passenger rail connections.

In Ontario, all major parties in the upcoming election are now promising to bring back the *Northlander* train, which is a success for our advocacy and engagement on this issue, and your support has made a difference! We also present an analysis of the recent provincial budget.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President  
Transport Action Canada

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### **Outsourcing VIA Rail operations creates risks for HFR...**

Transport Action believes that private partners will encounter significant risks in operating Canada's proposed High Frequency Rail (HFR) project as envisioned in recent procurement documents. We have identified 14 risk areas and have suggested...

[Read more](#)

[www.transportaction.ca](http://www.transportaction.ca)





## Ontario's Budget 2022 - Transportation Highlights

The Ford government introduced its 2022 Budget on April 28. As the Ontario legislature was dissolved one week later due to the upcoming provincial election, the budget was not debated or passed. However, it does represent the election platform of ...

[Read more](#)

[ontario.transportation.ca](https://ontario.transportation.ca)

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## Reconnecting the West Coast, Plains and Prairies

On April 21, 2022, representatives of Transport Action Canada, including current Transport Action BC president Alex Mandel, met with fellow passenger rail advocates from across the border, All Aboard Northwest, the Rail Passengers Association,...





### **TABC seeks equal consideration for transit riders as...**

Around the world, from Germany to New Zealand, governments have been tackling the cost of living crisis in the aftermath of the pandemic and spiking gasoline prices due to the the invasion of Ukraine by cutting bus and train fares, directly...

[Read more](#)  
bc.transportaction.ca

## **Transportation Newsround**

Vancouver OKs route, station locations for SkyTrain extension to UBC

[https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger\\_rail/news/Vancouver-OKs-route-station-locations-for-SkyTrain-extension--66251](https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/Vancouver-OKs-route-station-locations-for-SkyTrain-extension--66251)

Calgary issues RFQ for first phase of Green Line LRT

[https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger\\_rail/news/Calgary-issues-RFQ-for-Green-Line-light-rail-project--66271](https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/Calgary-issues-RFQ-for-Green-Line-light-rail-project--66271)

TAA speak up for public transit as cost of driving rises

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/gas-fuel-costs-new-brunswick-1.6408831>

Prince Edward County moving forward on transit

<https://www.quintenews.com/2022/04/07/moving-on-public-transit-in-the-county/>

Sea-to-Sky bus strike hits 10-week mark with talks in neutral, causing widespread frustration

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/whistler-squamish-bus-strike-bc-transit-1.6414523>

Return of Northlander train service could include new connection to Cochrane, Ont.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/sudbury-northlander-investment-announcement-1.6415144>

South River potential stop for restored passenger train

<https://www.nugget.ca/news/south-river-potential-stop-for-restored-passenger-train>

FlixBus hit the road in Ontario

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/flixbus-bus-service-ontario-market-1.6412670>

Should dogs be allowed on Montreal's buses and Metros?

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/dogs-montreal-metro-bus-stm-1.6419116>

Guelph Transit moving to on-demand service on statutory holidays

<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/guelph-transit-moving-to-on-demand-service-on-statutory-holidays-1.5862963>

Edmonton looks for alternative funding sources to run public transit

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-funding-transit-1.6424146>

Regina Transit Master Plan would replace diesel buses with electric vehicles by 2040

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-transit-master-plan-1.6425271>

How to make bus stops better with wayfinding

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/about-here-bus-stops-1.6426651>

BC seeks to acquire land for development around TransLink hubs

<https://globalnews.ca/video/8741736/province-looks-to-acquire-lands-near-transit-hubs-to-increase-density/>

Fredericton Transit gets federal funding for safety and accessibility upgrades

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/fredericton-transit-funding-atwin-roges-1.6426444>

'Essential infrastructure': Muskoka rail advocates on province's passenger rail promise

<https://www.muskokaregion.com/news-story/10611561--essential-infrastructure-muskoka-rail-advocates-on-province-s-passenger-rail-promise/>

Saint John NB unveils plan to get rid of its carbon-emitting vehicles

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/saint-john-unveils-electric-vehicle-plan-1.6427441>

Lethbridge CityLINK reports growing ridership and improved on time performance

<https://lethbridgenewsnow.com/2022/04/26/citylink-transit-becomes-permanent-funding-decision-delayed/>

Metrolinx leading transit electrification project across 13 Ontario transit agencies

<https://blog.metrolinx.com/2022/04/26/moving-towards-a-future-with-battery-electric-bus-transit-fleets-across-ontario/>

TransLink wants to explore SkyTrain extension to Surrey Newton

<https://www.peacearchnews.com/news/translink-wants-to-explore-skytrain-extension-into-newton/>

First "Hazel Line" tracks laid in Mississauga

<https://www.insauga.com/first-tracks-laid-as-major-mississauga-brampton-transit-project-moves-forward/>

Peterborough Transit launches on-demand bus service

<https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/2022/03/30/peterborough-transit-launches-on-demand-bus-service.html>

UK: Very Light Rail given the go-ahead in Coventry

<https://www.railtech.com/infrastructure/2022/04/05/uks-first-very-light-rail-line-given-the-go-ahead-following-grant-confirmation/>

USA: Amtrak adds Keystone trains as ridership returns

[https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger\\_rail/news/Amtrak-PennDOT-to-add-trains-to-Keystone-route--66353](https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/Amtrak-PennDOT-to-add-trains-to-Keystone-route--66353)

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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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