

Transport Action News - August 2022



Hello,

Getting across Canada by public transport today is far too hard, as Minister Steven Guilbeault found out, cancelling his promised cross-Canada rail tour of public consultations on climate policy, but it is just about possible. See <u>our article</u> below that describes how a tour of all Canadian provincial capitals could be done, and please take a moment to send it to your MP to keep up the pressure to make it easier!

At the end of July, of colleagues south of the border celebrated the return of Amtrak services to Burlington, Vermont. This victory had been more than a decade in the making, and thanks to persistent and patient work by citizens, politicians, and officials. When things are moving slowly up here in Canada – which they are for Vancouver Island, the Algoma region, the Northlander, the Gaspésie, or just restoring the early morning trains from London and Kingston in to Toronto – the lesson is to keep the pressure on and continue motivating our politicians to keep the projects moving along.

There are signs of progress toward permanent federal public transit funding, something that Transport Action and local advocacy groups have been asking for, and the Trudeau government has now launched a <u>consultation</u> with a view to creating such a program. Our submission to this process will include highlighting the needs to make rural-urban equity should be central to this new program, so no Canadian is left behind, and to ensure the MMWIG Call to Justice for safe transportation is fulfilled in its entirety. This would include integration with intercommunity bus, interprovincial motorcoach, and passenger rail services, making our <u>research project</u> this summer timely.

We also understand that the business case for renewing the long distance and regional train fleet has been prepared by VIA Rail and submitted to Transport Canada, a necessary step

toward securing the funding we asked the government to provide in the past two years of federal budget consultations. A new long distance fleet built for the 2030s would bring modern standards of accessibility to every corner of the rail network.

Sincerely,

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Terry Johnson, President Transport Action Canada

Watch Claire Trevena's presentation to our AGM

Our guest speaker for Transport Action Canada's AGM this years was Claire Trevena, former BC Minister of transportation and Infrastructure. If you missed the live presentation or want to see it again, it is now available on our Youtube channel:





A Grand Tour of Canada for Minister Guilbeault

Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Steven Guilbeault, made a commitment during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow to travel across Canada by rail. This article explains how we would make the...

Read more www.transportaction.ca



Can School Buses provide Public Transit?

While many school boards are reluctant to explore the possibility of carrying adult passengers, several successful services in Quebec demonstrate the potential to expand rural transit.

Read more www.transportaction.ca



Atlantic Transport News - July/August 2022

Summer travel returns, but VIA Rail delays abound; value for money an issue for Marine Atlantic users; PEI ferry burns, substitute vessel arrives from Quebec; details remain scanty about WestJet refocus and future of regional air services.

Read more transportactionatlantic.ca



Orangeville-Brampton Railway - Rail+Trail Option

In May, 2022, Peel Region Council endorsed a plan to purchase the Orangeville-Brampton Railway (OBRY) for use as a trail. We also understand there are plans to remove the tracks. Transport Action Ontario (TAO) has written to the Chair, Peel...

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ontario.transportaction.ca



Transport Canada responds: Intermodal Freight to Reduce GHGs

In November, 2021, just after the conclusion of the COP26 conference, Transport Action Ontario wrote to key federal ministers discussing the GHG reduction alternative of truck/train intermodal freight movement versus continued highway expansion...

Read more

Transportation Newsround

TransLink fare hike goes into effect <u>https://globalnews.ca/news/8961926/increased-translink-fares-now-in-effect/</u>

TTC 2023 Annual Service Plan Preview – Steve Munro https://stevemunro.ca/2022/07/01/ttc-2023-annual-service-plan-preview/

LRT public inquiry provided accountability council did not <u>https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/Irt-inquiry-ottawa-1.6515475</u>

UofT Transit Analytics Lab Research Day <u>https://uttri.utoronto.ca/news/tal-2022-research-day-celebrates-the-variety-and-scope-of-transit-research/</u>

Exo MR90s likely to be scrapped <u>https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1896522/exo-voitures-ligne-deux-montagnes-feraille</u>

Canada Investing \$4.4M to Improve Hudson Bay Railway <u>https://www.railwayage.com/regulatory/canada-investing-4-4mm-to-improve-hudson-bay-railway-corridor-safety/</u>

Surrey-Langley Skytrain business case approved https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/surrey-langley-skytrain-business-case-approved-new

FCM invests in transit electrification study for St. Catharines <u>https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2022/07/17/ottawa-fcm-investing-in-electrification-of-st-catharines-transit.html</u>

Regina makes transit free for under 13s, will consider extension to 18 next year <u>https://globalnews.ca/news/8997341/regina-transit-free-kids/</u>

Guilbeault tour flop highlights need for more transit options <u>https://www.hilltimes.com/2022/07/20/guilbeault-tour-flop-highlights-need-for-more-transit-options/372641</u>

ATU renews call for enhanced bus shields after latest assault on Winnipeg Transit driver <u>https://globalnews.ca/news/9017235/winnipeg-transit-union-enhanced-bus-shields-assault-on-driver/</u>

Proposed Banff, Calgary rail line continues back and forth with province <u>https://www.cochranetoday.ca/beyond-local/proposed-banff-calgary-rail-line-continues-back-and-forth-with-province-5586668</u>

CRD board votes to support bid to re-establish rail on Vancouver Island <u>https://www.cheknews.ca/crd-board-votes-to-support-bid-to-re-establish-rail-on-vancouver-island-1060639/</u>

Transpod "FluxJet" unveiled in Toronto, work on Calgary-Edmonton plan progressing <u>https://electricautonomy.ca/2022/08/08/calgary-edmonton-hyperloop-transpod/</u>

Government of Canada launches consultations on establishing permanent public transit funding

https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/the-government-of-canada-launches-consultations-onestablishing-permanent-public-transit-funding-863497048.html

Saskatoon Transit launching new on-demand system for neighbourhoods on city's outskirts <u>https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/transit-on-demand-system-1.6536563</u>

Shifting to EVs is not enough. The deeper problem is our car dependence <u>https://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/opinion-electric-vehicles-car-dependence-1.6534893</u>

USA: Tickets on sale for Amtrak Burlington to NYC service launching July 29 <u>https://www.wcax.com/2022/07/13/tickets-now-sale-burlington-nyc-amtrak-route/</u>

USA: Virginia increases Roanoke and Norfolk train frequencies https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2022/07/09/virginia-amtrak-norfolk-roanoke/

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 <u>download our printable</u> <u>membership form</u> and post it to us at the address below with a cheque.

Thank you again for your continued support!

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