



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

Transport Action News - September 2022



Hello ,

With most VIA trains now returning to pre-pandemic service levels the railway can once again look to the future. There is some good news in Minister Omar Alghabra's announcement this month in Windsor, which contained more nuance toward the possibility of near-term improvements, before the HFR project, although not the concrete announcement of increased services we might have hoped for.

Over the summer, the pressure to reinstate the remaining trains that were suspended due to the pandemic has increased, with Philip Lawrence MP and David Piccini MPP in Northumberland—Peterborough South both campaigning for the reinstatement of train 651 from Kingston, Belleville and Cobourg into Toronto in the morning and returning train 650 in the evening. Northumberland County organized a passenger survey, gathering hundreds of responses, and a rally will be held at the Cobourg station on September 9th at 2pm.

We have been asking both VIA Rail and the government about this service, and train 82 from London, since last fall and have yet to receive a clear explanation of the delay in reinstatement. With passenger numbers rebounding strongly, as documented in VIA Rail's second quarterly report, it is high time these trains were back on track. Your support, including sending letters, emails, and making calls to your local Member of Parliament, can help to bring this about.

The work of Transport Action would be impossible without the many dedicated volunteers who have contributed their time, energy, and knowledge over the years. This month we honour the memory of Dirk Partridge, who brought his extensive experience in the railway industry to the

role of volunteer national office manager.

Finally, if you are travelling by rail between Ottawa and Quebec City this fall, you may be in luck. With the first two brand-new Siemens trains now delivered, initial entry into service is expected soon.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada



Minister of Transport announces yet another study of SW...

Federal Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra made the trip down from Toronto by train and an announcement at the Windsor VIA Rail station on August 30th. We are pleased by government's continued interest in moving toward enhancing services in...

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Dirk Partridge 1926 - 2022

Longtime Office Manager of Transport 2000 / Transport Action Canada, Dirk Partridge, died on July 31st 2022 in Ottawa. Dirk Partridge was a founding member of the Amtrak management team, as Manager of Fares and Tariffs long before his retirement...

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Trip Report: Ottawa group trip to Alexandria

Eight members of the Ottawa Transport Action discussion group traveled on VIA Rail trains to Alexandria ON and return on August 19th, 2022. The undersigned met up with the group at Alexandria, having travelled by VIA Rail from Saint-Hyacinthe QC, ...

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Station repairs promised for SW Ontario

Masonry repairs should soon be getting underway at the Chatham VIA Rail station, together with other repairs to the stations in Sarnia, London and Brantford.

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Transportation Newsround

Flixbus extends service to Windsor

<https://windsorstar.com/news/local-news/new-intercity-bus-service-to-launch-in-windsor>

Brandon's on-demand transit pilot program enters next phase

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/brandon-s-on-demand-transit-pilot-program-enters-next-phase-1.6011812>

Timmins citizens call for improved transit

<https://www.timminspress.com/news/local-news/citizens-group-calls-for-improved-transit-service>

Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini continues fight for train 651

<https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/10690641-video-i-m-not-going-to-stop-northumberland-mpp-calls-out-via-to-get-train-651-back-on-track-launches-petition/>

Some transit agencies on the Presto system now accept credit and debit card tap

<https://www.cp24.com/news/riders-on-go-and-a-few-other-gta-transit-systems-can-start-tapping-with-credit-cards-to-pay-1.6023909>

LRT inquiry closing statements find a little common ground for city and RTG

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/lrt-public-inquiry-closing-statements-1.6551925>

Nelson BC to build downtown transit exchange with federal "Investing in Canada" funding.

<https://thenelsondaily.com/news/downtown-transit-exchange-project-receives-nod-approval-city>

Yonge Street bus rapid transit project wins public works award

<https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/yonge-street-rapid-transit-project-wins-public-works-award-5718650>

'We have to keep building': Ontario outlines investment in public transit

<https://www.thestar.com/local-vaughan/news/2022/08/19/we-have-to-keep-building-province-outlines-investment-in-public-transit.html>

Rehabilitation of Rouge River Bridge near completion

<https://durhampost.ca/rehab-to-add-20-years-to-historic-rouge-river-bridge>

Durham region DRT wins award

<https://www.thestar.com/local-oshawa/news/2022/08/21/durham-region-transit-wins-award-for-on-demand-service-program.html>

Transit from Cochrane to Calgary enhanced by new service

<https://www.highrivertimes.com/news/local-news/transit-from-cochrane-to-calgary-enhanced-by-new-service>

Arctic gateway Group secures funding for Churchill line upgrades

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/joc/news/infrastructure/2022/08/funding-secured-to-upgrade-critical-manitoba-rail-line>

Opinion: Time for LRT in Winnipeg?

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/2022/08/22/the-time-is-right-for-lrt-transition>

Guelph – Owen Sound bus ridership growing strongly

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/following-up/guelph-to-owen-sound-bus-service-continues-to-grow-5756924>

GO weekend service to Niagara falls becomes year-round

<https://blog.metrolinx.com/2022/08/30/weekend-go-train-service-to-niagara-continues-year-round/>

USA: Amtrak Cascades to get Siemen Venture trains, but not until 2026

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/amtrak-cascades-new-trains-vancouver-seattle-portland-passenger-rail>

Amtrak: Gateway project gets underway for northeast Corridor

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/Portal-North-Bridge-construction-project-is-underway--67197

UK: Transport for London offers 1938 heritage train rides

<https://londonist.com/london/transport/ride-1938-art-deco-vintage-tube-train>

UK: VivaRail and Kiepe Electric partner on battery-electric train project

<https://www.railtech.com/rolling-stock/2022/08/23/international-collaboration-to-develop-battery-electric-fleet-for-uk/>

Germany: First hydrogen trains in regular public service make debut

<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/coradia-ilint-hydrogen-trains/index.html?>

Opinion: The Return to State Ownership of Rail

<https://www.railtech.com/policy/2022/08/23/state-ownership-will-grow-in-importance/>

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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Now

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Thank you again for your continued support!

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