



Transport Action News - December 2022



Time is running out to restore service on Vancouver Island. Will trains return to Courtenay, seen here shortly after the end of service in 2012? Photo by Kaya Hund

Hello ,

As you know as a regular reader of this newsletter and supporter of Transport Action, we have been researching and advocating sustainable public transportation for more than four decades. This month, we honour one of our founding members, Dr D Michael Jackson. We are proud to continue the work he and his colleagues started at the Regina conference in 1976.

Our long term goal is still the revival of rail service to Regina and other cities across the prairies, but even daily bus services are lacking at the moment. In November, Transport Action Canada was invited to testify before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities regarding intercity bus service, addressing the crisis in mobility and for personal safety when travelling that has resulted from the demise of Greyhound in western Canada and Ontario. We will be following up with a written brief setting our recommendations, including an integrated ticketing ecosystem, so that if you want to buy a fare from Hay River to Halifax, you can.

Passenger numbers are rising for VIA Rail, and with the confirmation of maintenance centre upgrades the corridor service looks secure in the medium term. We are still working to advocate keeping High Frequency Rail in the public sector and secure the future of long distance and remote services.

While the news that Alberta's new Premier Danielle Smith has written a letter supporting the restoration of passenger rail to Banff is encouraging, we are deeply concerned by the looming deadline to secure the Vancouver Island railway corridor and the federal government's apparent inaction on this file. This will become a focus of our advocacy efforts over the next few months.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada

PS: All our work is made possible by members and supporters like you, both through volunteering and donations. Thank you!

Support our work



Transport Action joins CUTRIC efforts for low-carbon...

Transport Action and some of our volunteers have been participating in conferences and events with the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC) over the past few years, and we have now formalized this relationship by...

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Dr. D. Michael Jackson 1940 - 2022

Dr. D. Michael Jackson, CVO, SOM, CD passed away at the age of 82 on November 23rd 2022. Michael Jackson was extremely important in the first years of Transport 2000 Canada (Transport Action Canada). He was President of the Regina Rail Committee, ...

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CUTA Transit Exhibition Report

Volunteer board members Michael Olivier and Paul A. Bennett attended the Canadian Urban Transit Association's Exhibition in Montréal on October 25, 2022 on behalf of



VIA maintenance centre upgrades confirmed

Upgrades to the Toronto and Montreal maintenance centres to support the new corridor fleet, together with change management processes and staff training on the new systems and

Transport Action. This report details their observations regarding the state of...

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diagnostics aboard the new trains, will be essential to supporting the ...

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Atlantic Transport News - November/December 2022

Welcome to the November/December edition of Atlantic Transport News! With the holidays quickly approaching, this may well turn out to be our last newsletter for the year. All of us at TAA wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

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transportactionatlantic.ca

Transportation Newsround

Edmonton DRT at risk from budget cuts

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/lifeline-on-demand-transit-service-at-risk-of-being-cut-if-not-funded-by-city-council-1.6140001>

Ontario Line station designs previewed

<https://www.blogto.com/city/2022/11/inside-new-ontario-line-subway-stations/>

City of Grande Prairie modifies transit route network

<https://everythinggpp.com/2022/11/09/city-is-making-changes-to-the-transit-system/>

UN climate report recognizes importance of transit-friendly compact cities

<https://ggwash.org/view/87359/latest-un-climate-report-recognizes-importance-of-compact-cities-moving-people-not-cars-to-cut-transportation-emissions>

BusBud acquires Betterez, a reservation system used by many Canadian motorcoach companies

<https://www.venturecapitaljournal.com/vc-backed-busbud-travel-marketplace-merges-with-travel-reservations-platform-betterez/>

Decrepit track west of Kitchener causes GO and VIA cancellations.

<https://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/track-conditions-impact-some-trains-west-of-kitchener-1.6153116>

Edmonton regional fare cards finally launch after five years

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/transit-smart-cards-launch-in-edmonton-and-region-on-monday-1.6652694>

GO Transit workers ratify new contract

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/go-transit-workers-metrolinx-agreement-1.6656626>

Thermal expansion cracks Edmonton LRT pillars

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/profoundly-disappointed-two-thirds-of-concrete-pillars-on-new-edmonton-lrt-line-now-need-repairs>

Canadian cities going car-free to balance the books

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/evs-cities-climate-column-don-pittis-1.6654675>

Montreal to introduce free transit for seniors in July 2023

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/public-transit-to-be-free-for-seniors-on-island-of-montreal-as-of-july-source-says>

TransLink program encourages employers to subsidize workers' transit

<https://globalnews.ca/video/9301701/translink-program-encourages-employers-to-subsidize-workers-transit>

Winnipeg Transit receives its first batch of electric buses from New Flyer

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/2022/11/25/transit-rides-transformative-change-with-first-16-electric-buses>

Edmonton bus drivers share images showing daily realities of working within public transit system

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/edmonton-bus-drivers-share-images-showing-daily-realities-of-working-within-public-transit-system-1.6169957>

UK: New rail minister positive about electrification

<https://www.railjournal.com/policy/electrification-is-the-key-to-decarbonisation-says-britains-new-rail-minister/>

Norway: World's first hydrogen ferry powered by Canadian fuel cell supplier Ballard

<https://www.offshore-energy.biz/ballard-installs-fuel-cells-onboard-worlds-1st-hydrogen-powered-ferry/>

Sweden: Leadership in multimodal public transport ticketing and integration

<https://www.railtech.com/all/2022/11/14/what-can-countries-learn-from-sweden-when-it-comes-to-multi-modal-ticketing/>

USA: \$16B Hudson tunnel project for Amtrak set to begin construction in late 2024
<https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/amtrak-hudson-tunnel-begin-construction-2024/636563/>

USA: Brightline West to Las Vegas hoping for 2023 construction start.
<https://www.reviewjournal.com/business/tourism/high-speed-rail-project-construction-could-begin-in-23-2674524/>

Ireland: Battery-Electric trains to replace diesels in Dublin area
<https://www.railtech.com/rolling-stock/2022/12/02/irish-governments-greenlights-purchase-of-new-battery-trains/>

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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