



Transport Action News - January 2023



Toronto Union Station - Low platforms and long dwell times hinder VIA's corridor performance

Hello ,

We start 2023 with a lot of work to do. The Vancouver Island railway corridor must be saved, VIA Rail's long distance fleet needs replacing, Canada's motorcoach network needs rebuilding, and transit services across the country must be defended against cuts that would push up the cost of living. Thank you for being a supporter of Transport Action and joining us in these efforts.

The chaos caused by the winter storm on December 23rd, and the chaotic response it, has dealt a serious blow to VIA's reputation in the short term, as discussed in the article below. We are pleased that VIA is taking a thorough look at its procedures, and hope that the parliamentary hearings into the incident will also look at the root causes of the problems - including decades of underfunding.

Let's hope that VIA's start to the new year gets happier from here...

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



Lessons must be learned from Christmas travel woes

VIA's troubles and the debacle with airline passengers being stranded in Mexico show that the current framework for passenger rights in Canada is woefully inadequate.

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The Vancouver Island Railway: Shame or Opportunity?

Maybe some politicians think that Vancouver Island is of little significance, possibly unaware of its rapid population growth, expected to exceed a million people by the end of the decade? Transport Action Canada believes that the Esquimalt and...

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Gaspé railway expects to reopen to Port-Daniel-Gascons...

2023 is expected to be a good year for the Gaspé railway, with reopening as far as Port-Daniel-Gascons possible by the end of the year, together with the line being ready for

the return of passenger service at least as far as New Carlisle.

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Initial rendering only. Paint scheme to be informed by further planning and consultation.
Rendu d'origine seulement. On décidera de la façon dont le tout sera peint au fil d'autres démarches de planification et de consultation.

Ontario Northland Passenger Train Order Confirmed

Christmas came early for northeastern Ontario, and a major victory for citizen advocacy, when Stan Cho MPP, Ontario's Associate Minister of Transportation, announced the purchase of three new train sets to restore the Northlander passenger train...

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Transport Futures - Highway Planning Webinar Series...

Transport Action Ontario (TAO) has long been concerned with construction of new provincial highways, such as Highway 413, so we're thrilled to be co-sponsoring a Highway Planning Webinar Series that is being facilitated by our friends at...

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Transportation Newsround

VIA Rail Q3 report shows strong ridership

<https://www.travelweek.ca/news/ridership-back-on-track-in-q3-says-via-rail/>

IT firm CGI to manage new VIA Rail Canada reservation system

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/it-firm-cgi-to-manage-new-via-rail-canada-reservation-system/>

No citizen commissioners on Ottawa's transit commission this term, report recommends

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/ctv-news-content/no-citizen-commissioners-on-ottawa-s-transit-commission-this-term-report-recommends-1.18869573>

Safety concerns blamed for Winnipeg driver shortage

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-transit-driver-shortage-1.6671637>

Edmonton regional transit project runs into cost surprises

<https://www.stalbertgazette.com/local-news/council-frustrated-with-regional-transit-costs-6153587>

Belleville Transit posts record ridership

<https://www.quintenews.com/2022/12/05/belleville-transit-hits-rider-record/>

Calgary steps up transit safety measures

<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/city-of-calgary-taking-steps-to-improve-transit-system-safety-1.6181876>

Transdev CEO touts global experience as \$9B Ontario Line contract awarded
<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2022/12/transdev-ceo-touts-global-experience-as-9b-ontario-line-contract-awarded>

Peterborough transit to revert to hub and spoke, form community liaison committee
<https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/2022/12/05/peterborough-to-revert-to-old-transit-routes.html>

Red Arrow starts daily service between Toronto and Ottawa
<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/bus-company-starts-new-daily-trips-between-ottawa-and-toronto-1.6184629>

Additional recovery funding flows to Ontario's municipal transit agencies
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-transit-extra-funding-6-5million-1.6678105>

More transit options coming for people living in rural Cape Breton
<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/more-transit-options-coming-for-people-living-in-rural-cbrm-1.6202412>

Watson apologizes, takes 'full responsibility' for LRT 'shortcomings'
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/watson-lrt-public-statement-1.6681171>

Ottawa transit users and critics want 'genuinely reliable' service following damning LRT report
<https://capitalcurrent.ca/ottawa-transit-users-and-critics-want-genuinely-reliable-service-following-damning-lrt-report/>

Federal and provincial dollars flow for Bloor-Young station expansion
<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/tory-to-be-joined-by-federal-and-provincial-ministers-for-transit-announcement-1.6187766>

Stony Plain, AB transit joins regional on-demand network
<https://www.sprucegroveexaminer.com/news/local-news/stony-plain-transit-shifts-to-tri-region-on-demand-service/wcm/1fcd3aa4-c427-40f4-b06c-f6b9922499e9>

Additional public transit measures to help healthcare workers during La Fontaine tunnel construction
<https://montreal.citynews.ca/2022/12/12/new-public-transit-measures-lafontaine-tunnel/>

New trains ordered to restore Northlander; delivery expected in 2026
<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/the-northlander-getting-back-on-its-rails-6253062>

Calgary's Red Line LRT to return to four-car trains
<https://globalnews.ca/news/9352413/calgarys-red-line-lrt-return-four-car-trains/>

First HFR board members appointed
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-robert-prichard-appointed-chair-of-new-board-to-lead-quebec-city-to/>

Edmonton Council vote collapses regional transit plan
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/regional-transit-plan-edmonton-decides-not-to-fund-1.6687381>

Toronto Union Station south concourse work commences
<https://www.metrolinx.com/en/news/major-construction-starts-on-new-south-passenger-concourse-at-union-station>

Amtrak Montreal service to resume in spring

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/amtrak-expected-to-resume-montreal-new-york-city-train-in-the-spring>

VIA Rail names siding after Brockville area enthusiast

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/via-rail-renames-section-of-track-for-brockville-area-train-enthusiast-1.6204712>

Ontario tech students call for transit improvements

<https://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/10812533--high-reliance-yet-low-reliability-ontario-tech-calls-for-transit-improvements/>

Bus tragedy on Christmas Eve in British Columbia

<https://globalnews.ca/video/9373235/four-dead-multiple-others-injured-in-ebus-rollover-on-okanagan-connector>

Multiple VIA trains immobilized by winter storm, disruption persists through Christmas and Boxing Day

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/via-trains-return-to-service-1.6698088>

Failing VIA Blue and Yellow equipment forces Mathias Colomb First Nation to fly stranded members home for holidays

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/flight-the-pas-1.6695295>

WSDOT releases details of new Cascades train design.

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/amtrak-cascades-vancouver-seattle-portland-new-train-airo>

Watch: Transit advocate Nathan Davidowicz talks to Global News about Translink service cutbacks

<https://globalnews.ca/video/9378497/translink-adjusts-some-metro-vancouver-bus-schedules/>

Comment: Europe approves short-haul flight bans to bring down emissions. Canada cannot even consider the same climate win.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-europe-bans-short-haul-flight-lower-climate-emissions/>

Comment: Ottawa LRT and the Future of P3s: Public (interest), Private (collaboration) & (meaningful) Partnerships

<https://mcmillan.ca/insights/ottawa-lrt-and-the-future-of-p3s-public-interest-private-collaboration-meaningful-partnerships/>

Comment: Stop feeding the highway 401 beast

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2022/12/17/highway-401-is-the-beast-running-through-the-heart-of-ontario-its-time-to-stop-feeding-the-beast.html>

Comment: Bus ridership leading the post-pandemic recovery for transit

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-the-pandemic-hobbled-transit-a-bet-on-bus-ridership-is-leading-the/>

US: Charlotte Gateway Station project complete

<https://www.wcnc.com/article/travel/first-test-train-arrives-charlotte-gateway-station-amtrak-passenger-transit/275-d1e3ad65-4009-4dcf-9481-fa995e10befe>

US: Amtrak to use "Delivery Partner" model for Baltimore tunnel project

<https://www.progressiverailroading.com/amtrak/news/Amtrak-to-pursue-delivery-partner-model-for-BP-Tunnel-replacement-project--68114>

US: \$2.3bn in grant funding available to states for intercity rail

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/USDOT-seeks-applicants-for-intercity-passenger-rail-grants--68140

US: Amtrak unveils "Airo" branding for new corridor trains

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/amtrak-rolls-out-airo-branding-images-of-siemens-push-pull-fleet/>

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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Thank you again for your continued support!

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