



Transport Action News - February 2023



Train 72 approaching Northward, Ontario with a stainless steel consist and buffer cars

Hello ,

There's encouraging news to share this month: An RFI for the replacement of VIA Rail's aging long-distance fleet has finally been issued. We'll be continuing to urge the government to keep the process moving forward as fast as possible and get the new trains ordered.

Following the chaos caused by the winter storm on December 23rd, House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities invited VIA Rail executives and Transport Action Atlantic president Tim Hayman to testify before the committee on January 26th. The testimony included some questions for CN that we hope they'll answer.

We have launched an online letter writing campaign in support of the Vancouver Island Railway, gathering hundreds of responses in the first few days. Please send your own letter and share this link with your friends and family. Wherever you live in Canada, what happens in this case is likely set a precedent for the revival, or otherwise, of our regional train services.

[Write to your MP now!](#)

Transport Action BC has also been engaged in consultations with Washington State DOT on the Amtrak Cascades Service Development Plan, which will explore options to add more trains and reduce running times for trains between Vancouver and Seattle. The second daily roundtrip train between both cities will resume on March 7, 2023.

Transport Action Ontario is urging a review of the Gardiner East Expressway - see below - and sponsoring a webinar series with Transport Futures that will explore highway issues including costs, road pricing, the impact of electric and autonomous vehicles, HOV and bus priority lanes, and *alternatives* to building highways. [Click here for more details and registration.](#)

Thank you to all our volunteers for your hard work to make these campaigns possible. Onward!

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 committee holds hearings on VIA disruptions

In response to the disruption of train services due to the winter storm on December 23rd, and due to the CN derailment near Grafton, Ontario between December 24th and 26th, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and...

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VIA Rail Long-Distance Fleet Replacement RFI Issued

Transport Action welcomes the long-awaited announcement of the Request For Information for the replacement of VIA Rail's long-distance train fleet, which was issued on January 27 th, 2023, and will urge the government support VIA Rail in moving...

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Alstom, Quebec City mayor reopen TGV vs HFR debate

Alstom have begun advancing a proposal to upgrade the High Frequency Rail project to High-Speed Rail, naturally proposing the choice of their Avelia family of high-speed trains, which are also being produced for Amtrak's Northeast Corridor. They...

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Atlantic Transport News - Holiday travellers stranded

Hundreds of holiday travellers stranded on VIA's Ocean on Dec 23rd; WestJet ditches Halifax transatlantic hub; Maritime Bus sees strong recovery while celebrating 10th anniversary.

[Read more](#)

transportactionatlantic.ca



Update Needed on Gardiner Expressway Elevated Link Project

With the huge 2023 budget challenges being faced by the City of Toronto, Transport Action Ontario (TAO) is joining dozens of other non-government organizations calling for an update on the costs and foregone revenues to build a new elevated link...

[Read more](#)

ontario.transportaction.ca

Transportation Newsround

Brightline testing PTC/ATC integration for 110-125 mph operations

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/brightline-update-ptc-plans-outlined-for-125-mph-operation/>

Good public transit linked to better health

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/accessible-public-transit-linked-to-better-health-study-1.6219305>

BC issues ~\$4bn RFP for Surrey-Langley Skytrain

<https://www.railwayage.com/passenger/rapid-transit/gov-of-british-columbia-issues-rfp-for-surrey-langley-skytrain/>

Cochrane AB mayor optimistic about passenger rail service

<https://cochranenow.com/articles/some-town-initiatives-we-can-expect-in-2023>

Edmonton seeks direct bus to airport

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-city-council-1.6704136>

VIA Rail urgently needs new equipment

<https://www.919thebend.ca/2023/01/10/via-rail-urgently-needs-new-equipment-advocate/>

Edmonton takes delivery of hydrogen buses

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/hydrogen-buses-are-coming-to-edmonton-and-area-fuelling-hopes-for-a-new-energy-economy-1.6684545>

Huron Central receives infrastructure funding

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/short_lines_regionals/news/Huron-Central-Railway-awarded-government-funds-for-infrastructure-project--68339

Edmonton regional transit plans winding down after funding cut

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-region-transit-commission-winding-down-1.6708116>

Comment: Toronto Star call for passenger rights for rail travellers

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2023/01/03/protecting-rail-travellers.html>

Comment: TTC board must demand better

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2023/01/03/transit-in-toronto-has-never-felt-so-broken-its-time-for-the-ttc-board-of-directors-to-demand-better.html>

Comment: Wanted: a federal strategy for zero-emission transit, coach, rail

<https://electricautonomy.ca/2023/01/06/zero-emission-transit-coach-rail/>

Expanded GO train service a non-viable option for students

https://westerngazette.ca/opinion/opinion-expanded-go-train-service-a-non-viable-option-for-students/article_bd5391e8-92b1-11ed-8935-db423c1e94ba.html

VIA Rail issues apology for service disruptions

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9403604/via-rail-apology-service-issues-track-conditions/>

Niagara region station repairs could herald GO frequency increase

<https://www.insauga.com/expect-huge-rise-in-go-train-service-as-region-renovates-st-catharines-niagara-falls-train-stations>

New calls for real public transit linking Vancouver, Squamish, and Whistler

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/sea-to-sky-highway-bc-transit-vancouver-squamish-whistler>

Blocked roads at Crescent Beach demonstrate need for White Rock bypass

<https://vancouver.citynews.ca/2023/01/21/train-surrey-bc-crescent-beach/>

Montreal Blue line to get CBTC signalling upgrade to prepare for extension

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/montreal-metro-blue-line-to-get-a-new-brain>

Presto credit card tap expanding across 905

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2023/01/23/presto-credit-payment-expands-to-more-905-transit-riders-while-ttc-riders-will-have-to-wait.html>

Hitachi study identified opportunities are attract more riders to public transit

<https://www.lakeshoreadvance.com/globe-newswire/three-in-four-people-prefer-better-connected-public-transport-over-driving-new-global-study-reveals>

Ottawa seeks negotiated settlement of lawsuit with Confederation Line contractor

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/city-of-ottawa-settling-lawsuit-with-lrt-builder-1.6246291>

ATU calls for task force on transit violence

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/amalgamated-transit-union-canada-national-task-force-transit-violence-1.6725074>

Brantford councillors call for reinstatement of train 82

<https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/city-councillors-back-mayors-lobbying-efforts-to-reinstate-morning-via-rail-train>

Flixbus to provide service between Kitchener and YYZ, but not daily.

<https://kitchener.citynews.ca/local-news/flixbus-to-offer-local-service-to-and-from-pearson-airport-6431391>

TAA President Tim Hayman speaks to CBC Maritime Noon about VIA disruptions

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-38-maritime-noon/clip/15962486-the-president-transport-action-atlantic-gives-testimony-house>

VIA Rail gives testimony to House of Commons

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/via-rail-tells-mps-passengers-stuck-on-train-for-18-hours-in-unique-situation-1.6246969>

Via Rail admits charging stranded customers for food 'a failure'

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2166049859603>

VIA Rail CEO tells MPs climate change is leaving transport networks vulnerable

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9437949/via-rail-transport-committee-meeting/>

City of St. Thomas seeking approval for bus route to London

<https://www.stthomastoday.ca/2023/01/29/61739/>

Windsor transit ridership rebounds to 2019 levels

<https://windsor.ctvnews.ca/ridership-on-windsor-transit-rebounds-to-pre-pandemic-levels-1.6253834>

Letters: Here's a transit system we should strive for

https://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2023/01/28/heres-a-transit-system-we-should-strive-for.html

USA: Amtrak issues RFI for long distance fleet replacement

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/traction-and-rolling-stock/amtrak-launches-night-train-fleet-replacement-process/63383.article>

USA: New Grand Central Madison terminal opens to passengers

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/LIRR-launches-direct-train-service-to-Grand-Central-Madison--68450

USA: MTA Penn Station Access project runs into coordination difficulties with Amtrak

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/mta-runs-into-early-delays-with-penn-station-access-project/>

UK: Eurostar trains forced to run with empty seats due to Brexit passport rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jan/24/eurostar-trains-empty-seats-brexit-passport-rules-london-paris-brussels>

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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