



Transport Action News - April 2023



Stadler's "Fast Light Intercity and Regional Train" - these units are now expected to begin service on Ottawa's Trillium Line this October.

Hello ,

We were expecting news about the future of the railway on Vancouver Island on March 14th. What Canada and BC delivered instead was uncertainty. We welcome the expressed commitments to both to reconciliation and to the future of the corridor, and hope that a new round of study and consultation will finally lead to substantive action. Full story below.

Transport Action BC has also been collaborating with All Aboard Washington and the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates to produce a joint policy statement on the Amtrak Cascades service and sustainable transportation across the Pacific Northwest.

The federal government and Ontario didn't renew operational funding support in their spring budgets, although other provinces did, putting the TTC and other agencies facing damaging service cuts, just when ridership is returning, as detailed in our story below. Funding shortfalls also hamper efforts to deploy additional safety to improve safety, and we are supporting ATU Canada's call for urgent action to address the recent upsurge in violent incidents on transit systems across Canada.

Fare integration was also absent from the Ontario budget, but speaking at the Toronto Region Board of Trade's Transportation Symposium on March 30, Minister Stan Cho committed to TTC fare integration by the end of the year. We welcome this commitment! High Frequency Rail was

also a major topic at that event, which two Transport Action board members attended, with a speech by VIA-HFR board chair Robert Prichard and the opportunity meeting the new interim CEO, Marc-Olivier Ranger, and other members of the rapidly growing team handling the procurement process.

In March, we also submitted a brief for the US Federal Railroad Administration's study of Amtrak's long distance services, supporting the efforts of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority to reinstate the North Coast Hiawatha - a service cut analogous the the loss of the *Canadian* through Calgary - and to emphasize opportunities for renewed and enhanced cross-border connections.

Finally, you will have already received details of our upcoming Annual General Meeting on April 29th. Don't forget to register to [join us in Ottawa](#) or [watch online](#).

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!

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Unclear decision, uncertain future for Vancouver Island Rail

On March 14, the British Columbia and federal governments made their long-awaited statement on the future of the Vancouver Island rail corridor, just ahead of the deadline

imposed by the BC Court of Appeal, confirming that they have decided ...

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National Task Force needed to address violent incidents

Violent incidents on transit are making the headlines with disturbing regularity, with an upsurge in disorder on public transit systems across Canada over the past year. Passenger and employee safety is paramount in ensuring that transit systems...

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Federal Funding Needed to avoid Public Transit Death Spiral

During summer, 2022 the federal government engaged in public consultation on a proposed \$3B/yr Permanent Public Transit Fund. The purpose was to "support the expansion and upgrading of public transit and active transportation networks in...

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Gardiner East Transparency - Advocacy Update

Transport Action Ontario is a core member of a coalition of community groups called Gardiner East Transparency (GET), calling for the City of Toronto to be transparent and to reveal the full go-forward costs and foregone revenues - potentially...

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Enhanced Train Control for Canada's Railways

In February 2022, Transport Canada published a Notice of Intent describing how it intended to implement enhanced train control (ETC) in Canada by 2030. ETC is also known as positive train control (PTC) in the USA. Currently, reliance for train...

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Atlantic Transport News - March 2023

Welcome to the March Atlantic Transport News. Here's a look at what you'll find in this edition: PEI EXTENDS AFFORDABLE TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM Transit hasn't been a high-profile discussion item during the current provincial election campaign on...

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Transportation Newsround

Alberta budget earmarks \$5M to study Calgary-Banff rail

<https://cochranenow.com/articles/alberta-budget-includes-5-mil-for-calgary-airport-banff-rail-project>

The regional municipalities of Rocher-Percé and Côte-de-Gaspé as well as the cities of Chandler and Gaspé reiterate their support for the project to repair the railway line between Matapédia and Gaspé.

<https://magaspesie.ca/la-refection-du-rail-demeure-une-priorite-pour-les-elus-de-lest-de-la-gaspesie/>

Bus stops obstructed by snow banks make transit inaccessible

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/grand-river-transit-accessibility-wheelchair-concerns-snow-1.6772297>

Activists call for local, public control of transit system in Central Okanagan

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/central-okanagan-public-transit-petition-1.6772059>

London BRT construction starts, at last

<https://london.ctvnews.ca/plan-your-detours-rapid-transit-construction-starting-on-all-three-routes-1.6308641>

Quebec investing to rehabilitate line to Thetford Mines

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1962665/rehabilitation-chemin-fer-quebec-central-vallee-jonction-thetford-mines>

CP Rail taps Alberta manufacturer to increase fleet of hydrogen-powered trains

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/bakx-cp-rail-bilton-hydrogen-1.6766156>

Decision on future of Vancouver Island rail line delayed once again

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/vancouver-island-rail-delay-2023-1.6778609>

Saga of Vancouver Island rail corridor highlights B.C.'s difficulty in creating regional transit

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/en-railway-trains-mcelroy-2023-1.6779132>

Halalt First Nation also seeks reversion of Vancouver Island Railway Corridor

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/halalt-first-nation-also-seeking-return-of-land-used-for-rail-corridor-6708101>

Regina Citizens Public Transit Coalition challenges councillors to rely on transit for 48 hours

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-transit-challenge-2023-1.6778767>

Housing crisis is fuelling violence on our public-transit systems – ATU Canada

<https://macleans.ca/society/how-canadas-housing-crisis-is-fuelling-violence-on-our-public-transit-systems/>

Return of train 651 awaits VIA fleet availability, MP demands action.

<https://inquire.ca/story/via-train-651-not-returning-to-quinte-any-time-soon>

Quebec budget underfunds transit and housing

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/quebec-budget-2023-transit-housing-funding>

TTC works with community groups to offer better support unhoused people in the transit system

<https://www.cp24.com/news/ttc-announces-one-year-pilot-to-better-support-unhoused-people-in-the-transit-system-1.6323676>

Sarnia working with CUTRIC to plan transit electrification

<https://www.theobserver.ca/news/local-news/contract-awarded-for-electric-transit-system-study>

Looking forward to Airo trains on the Adirondack route

<https://journalmetro.com/societe/mobilite/3033773/montreal-new-york-un-nouveau-train-plus-rapide-en-vue/>

GO starts KW-Guelph-Hamilton bus April 8th

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/new-go-bus-route-between-guelph-and-hamilton-6752772>

Waterloo Region approves \$1.5 million in expanded transit service to Cambridge

<https://www.cambridgetoday.ca/local-news/region-approves-15-million-in-expanded-transit-service-to-cambridge-6747278>

Nothing for GO-TTC fare integration in Ontario budget

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2023/03/23/ontario-budget-2023-ttc-go-transit-fares-discount/>

VIA recognised for advancing women in governance roles

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/via-rail-receives-gold-parity-certification-from-women-in-governance-811882778.html>

Rip it up and tear it down are often the best options for urban highways

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/usa/2023/03/the-future-of-highways-rip-it-up-gains-ground>

London BRT to use curbside lanes in east end

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/kicking-buses-to-the-curb-a-step-down-for-brt-planner-says-1.6784661>

Skytrain extension to UBC moves to detailed design stage

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/ubc-skytrain-extension-design-planning-business-case>

UofT studying particulate emissions from car and truck tires and brakes

<https://www.mobilitynetwork.utoronto.ca/from-tires-to-brakes-u-of-t-researchers-tackle-non-tailpipe-air-pollution-from-vehicles/>

David Suzuki Foundation highlights alternatives to Highway 413

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2023/03/22/david-suzuki-foundations-new-highway-413-transit-ads-highlight-possible-8b-price-tag-ask-what-else-could-that-money-buy.html>

Edmonton pairs peace officers and social workers to ensure public safety on transit

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-expands-transit-outreach-program-to-improve-safety-help-vulnerable-people-1.6785174#>

Sarnia launches bus electrification study

<https://www.theobserver.ca/news/local-news/contract-awarded-for-electric-transit-system-study>

New GO bus between Kitchener and Hamilton

<https://www.metrolinx.com/en/news/new-waterloo-to-hamilton-route-among-april-go-bus-service-changes->

Auditor General welcomes VIA progress on accessibility, highlights areas for improvement

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/canadas-auditor-general-says-via-rail-transportation-agencies-must-do-more-to-address-barriers-for-those-with-disabilities/>

O-Train Trillium Line to miss start of fall term at Carleton

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/stage-2-update-lrt-subcommittee-1.6794565>

Transit advocates protest TTC service cuts

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ttcriders-day-of-action-ttc-service-cuts-1.6792736>

USA: New York Empire Corridor Draft EIS chooses lower speed option

<https://www.wgrz.com/article/travel/new-yorks-high-speed-rail-plan-not-high-speed/71-c5a4dbe7-26d9-4354-9479-a837fd5beb18>

USA: Siemens to construct train-building plant in North Carolina

<https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/siemens-invest-220-million-north-carolina-rail-car-factory-2023-03-07/>

USA: Stalder to build zero-emission trains at Utah plant

<https://www.ksl.com/article/50582124/zero-emission-trains-built-in-utah-promise-a-cleaner-future>

USA: Amtrak offers “Night Owl” fares from \$5

<https://media.amtrak.com/2023/03/amtrak-introduces-ultra-low-night-owl-fares/>

UK: Derby selected as new “Great British Railways” headquarters

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-65020846>

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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