



Transport Action News - May 2023



VIA P42 903 rounds the curve at Mooney's Bay, Ottawa, passing under the new bridge for the Trillium Line.

Hello ,

April started with the opening of the Davenport Diamond, a crucial investment to allow the Barrie line to pass over CPKC's main line in Toronto. This is the kind of investment that benefits both freight network fluidity and passenger service frequency and reliability that we promote and welcome. However, when freight carriers allow track to degrade, slowing down passenger service, we call it out. With the reinstatement of the *Adirondack*, we are calling for the track condition between the border and Montreal to be addressed and the customs preclearance facility, planned a decade ago, to finally be built.

Also in Quebec, we are delighted that the provincial government has abandoned the idea of a superhighway tunnel, in favour of a dedicated rapid transit link between Quebec City and Levis.

There were also several announcements of increased motorcoach service this month - see "Newsround" below for details - but the industry remains fragmented, with poor connections between carriers and limited service away from major city pairs. Unfortunately, with VIA Rail preparing to switch over it is new reservation system, fares for rail+bus connections are also unavailable, at least for the short term. We have asked for these partnerships to be reinstated

as soon as possible.

Our national AGM in Ottawa on April 29th was well attended both in-person and online, and for supporters who were not able to join us live, the presentations will be available online shortly. We were also invited to give a presentation to the All Party Rail Caucus - full story and details of our presentation below - which included an opportunity to discuss the restoration of the *Mask-wa Oo-ta-ban* (Algoma Bear Train).

Volunteer opportunity: The board is looking for additional members, including from the Prairie provinces and to represent youth. Please [contact us](#) to find out more.

Sincerely,



Terry Johnson, President
Transport Action Canada

All our work is made possible by members and supporters like you, both through volunteering and donations. If you are able to set up a monthly donation, that helps us to plan and organize more advocacy. Thank you!

Make a
donation



Meeting with Parliamentary All Party Rail Caucus

On the evening of Thursday April 27th, 2023 the parliamentary rail caucus invited Transport Action Canada to give a presentation and to discuss the current state of passenger rail in Canada.

[Read more](#)

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How soon will Amtrak have customs preclearance at Montreal?

We have written to Geneviève Guilbault, Quebec's Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, asking for an update on progress toward custom preclearance for Amtrak passengers at Montreal's Central Station, and for the condition of the track...

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Federal Airport Study Casts Doubt on Pickering Airport

In a surprise announcement on April 18, 2023, federal Transport Minister Alghabra kicked off a study on airport capacity in Southern Ontario.

[Read more](#)

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Transit-dedicated Third Link tunnel a courageous...

Taking a transit-first approach to mobility is increasingly common in large cities around the world, but is still considered politically courageous in North America. Therefore, Transport Action Canada welcomes the Québec government's decision to...

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Atlantic Transport News - April 2023

NEW FERRY FOR MARINE ATLANTIC HAS BEEN LAUNCHED - A new addition to Marine Atlantic's fleet is just a little more than a year away from entering service.

[Read more](#)

transportationatlantic.ca

Transportation Newsround

New Westminster backs call for free transit up to age 18

<https://www.newwestrecord.ca/local-news/new-west-city-council-backs-free-public-transit-for-teens-6852016>

Small improvements to public transit could bring large increase in usability

<https://www.thestar.com/business/mars/2023/04/14/these-small-tweaks-to-public-transit-can-have-a-huge-impact.html>

Davenport grade separation over CP now open for GO Barrie Line and VIA's Canadian

<https://www.rtands.com/passenger/metrolinx-go-trains-now-using-elevated-davenport-diamond-guideway/>

GO bus route 21 changes unhelpful for some Milton and Mississauga commuters

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ont-go-transit-1.6805718>

GO replacing some off-peak trains with busses to accelerate rail infrastructure projects

<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/barrie-line-go-train-service-changes-here-s-what-you-need-to-know-1.6327720>

VIA responds to another P42 locomotive failure

<https://www.cp24.com/news/100-passengers-stuck-on-via-rail-train-near-toronto-after-breakdown-1.6356149>

Fraser Valley transit drivers striking after three years without a contract, demand fair treatment

<https://www.abbeynews.com/news/breaking-w-video-striking-fraser-valley-bus-drivers-rally-at-five-corners-in-chilliwack/>

Operation Lifesaver Canada collaborates with Google Maps on new rail crossing alert feature

<https://www.operationlifesaver.ca/blog/april-2023/ol-canada-announces-collaboration-with-google-maps/>

BC Transit planning new routes in Oliver and Osoyoos

<https://www.timeschronicle.ca/bc-transit-planning-new-routes-in-oliver-and-osoyoos/>

B.C. premier outlines measures to address safety on transit

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-premier-outlines-measures-to-address-safety-on-transit-1.6359775>

Violence on Calgary Transit increases calls for national safety plan

<https://calgary.citynews.ca/2023/04/17/calgary-transit-national-safety-plan/>

Quebec Third Link to be dedicated transit connection

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-third-link-public-transit-1.6814960>

Metrolinx keeping community informed on Barrie line double track project

<https://www.bradfordtoday.ca/local-news/double-talk-metrolinx-outlines-future-for-second-set-of-tracks-6856683>

Rider Express expands Calgary-Vancouver service

https://www.castanet.net/news/Think%20Local/421748/Rider_Express_adds_to_its_expanding_system_with_Kelowna_Salmon_Arm_route

Cost escalation puts ION LRT extension to Cambridge in question

<https://www.therecord.com/local-cambridge/opinion/2023/04/15/off-the-rails-lrt-into-cambridge-perhaps-no-longer-looking-like-a-lock.html>

Finch West LRT progress update – structural work complete at underground stations

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/rail/infrastructure/press-release/53057682/metrolinx-metrolinx-marks-substantial-progress-on-finch-west-lrt-project>

UBC Engineering professor suggests Hydrogen tram-train for Okanagan valley

<https://vernonmatters.ca/2023/04/20/local-politicians-get-update-on-okanagan-rail-idea/>

Megabus doubling frequency between London and Toronto

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9655807/megabus-bus-service-london-toronto/>

REGIM shuttle cancelled due to change in VIA reservation system

<https://regim.info/annulation-via-rail/>

France: Bordeaux-Toulouse and Bordeaux-Dax high speed lines proceed with state and EU funding

<https://www.railtech.com/infrastructure/2023/04/18/paris-toulouse-in-only-3-hours-by-2032-the-14-billion-euro-project-is-taking-shape/>

UK: Funding shortfall, inflation leave Network rail unable to maintain state of good repair

<https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/network-rail-has-insufficient-funds-to-maintain-the-uks-railway-infrastructure-18-04-2023/>

Netherlands: NS debuts InterCity Next Generation trains

<https://nltimes.nl/2023/04/19/new-high-speed-intercity-train-debuts-amsterdam-rotterdam-route-today>

UK: LNER launches “Carolean Express” to mark coronation

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65323980>

France: Besançon, Brest and Toulouse order Alstom trams at half the price paid by Quebec City

<https://www.railwaypro.com/wp/joint-order-for-trams-manufactured-by-alstom/>

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

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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