



## Transport Action News - July 2023



Hello ,

Two steps forward, one step back. That's how it felt in Ontario this June with the announcement by GO Transit that their once-per-day London pilot project will be coming to end this fall coming hot on the heels of the announcement that VIA trains 82 and 83 between London and Toronto are going to be reinstated.

It was a similar feeling in Quebec, with two great funding announcements - most significantly, full funding to rehabilitate the railway line to Gaspé - being followed by the suspension of Amtrak's Adirondack due to the poor condition of CN's track north of the border. We are in frequent contact with US rail advocacy groups to coordinate our work on such cross-border issues, including Transport Action BC working with All Aboard Washington to suggest improvements to the Amtrak Cascades service.

Last month's meeting with Sarnia's Mayor Mike Bradley, a stalwart advocate of passenger rail for the city, and was followed by participation in a renewed regional study by Ontario's Ministry of Transportation and a meeting with the team from CPCS, who have been engaged by Transport Canada to explore options for more than doubling VIA Rail services in the region. With passenger numbers rebounding strongly, we'll also keep pushing for the return of trains 650 and 651 in eastern Ontario, and for rail and bus service increases throughout Canada.

Thank you to all our volunteers for making this a busy month! Check out all the stories below...

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!

Become a member

Make a  
donation



### Trains to return to Gaspé by 2026

On June 27, 2023, the government of Quebec confirmed funding to complete repairs to the third segment of the Gaspé railway, beyond Port-Daniel-Gascons. The new funding, totalling \$518 million, will ensure that the work can be completed by 2026.

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### **Amtrak's Adirondack suspended again due to CN track...**

Having only resumed a couple of months ago, Amtrak's Adirondack train between Montreal and New York has once again been suspended, from June 24, 2023, until at least June 30. In a message to...

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### **Federal Study of Southwestern Ontario Passenger Rail**

As described in our first post (September 30, 2022), a federal study on passenger rail enhancements in southwestern Ontario is underway. In November, it was announced that CPCS Transcom, in associa...

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### **Quebec Central Railway to reopen to Thetford Mines**

Quebec's Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility, Geneviève Guilbault, announced \$440M in funding to reinstate the Quebec Central Railway between Vallée-Jonction and Thetford Mines on June 2...

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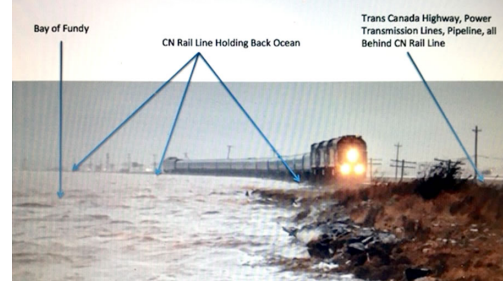


## Amtrak Cascades: Time for a Blaine Station?

Ever since Amtrak restarted its Seattle-Vancouver train service there have been hopes of having it stop at either White Rock, BC or Blaine, WA; which the old international trains did before they en...

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## Canada ready to fund Chignecto Isthmus protection

The project is expected to cost at least \$300M, and federal Infrastructure Minister Dominic LeBlanc has invited the two provinces to apply for half of the total cost under federal climate change resilience and adaption programs.

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## Demonstration in Brantford for VIA Trains 82/83

Transport Action Ontario (TAO) participated in a well-attended demonstration in Brantford on June 24, 2023 concerning reinstatement of VIA Trains 82/83, key commuter-oriented trains connecting to/f...

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## GO Transit - Extension to Bowmanville takes next steps

The Ontario government has awarded a contract to Bowmanville Construction Partners (BCP), a general partnership between Ledcor CMI and Dragados Canada, to advance the planning to extend GO's ...

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# Transportation Newsround

As feds push forward with public-private model for rail megaproject NDP, Unifor warn of privatization

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2023/06/01/news/privatization-concerns-feds-push-forward-public-private-model-rail-megaproject>

End of the line for first and second generation Skytrain cars  
<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/skytrain-mark-i-ii-old-cars-retirement>

Kirkland Lake to investigate options for restoring bus services  
<https://www.timminspress.com/news/town-to-investigate-possible-return-of-public-transit-to-kirkland-lake>

Calgary's mayor highlights transit safety investments on CTrain ride-along  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/9756657/calgary-mayor-transit-safety-investments-ctrain-ride-along/>

How Canada's Railways Are Moving the Circular Economy Forward  
<https://www.innovatingcanada.ca/environment/circular-economy/how-canadas-railways-are-moving-the-circular-economy-forward/>

O-Train launch date may be confirmed soon as testing begins on airport segment  
<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/oc-transpo-expects-to-know-in-september-when-line-2-lrt-might-launch-1.6446898>

Barrie transit system revamp on the horizon  
<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/newly-revamped-barrie-transit-system-on-the-horizon-1.6441820>

Winnipeg's proposed Transit Plus cancellation changes raise concerns among riders  
<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2023/06/16/citys-proposed-transit-plus-cancellation-changes-raise-concerns-among-riders>

Running late, drawing crowds: What new data reveals about Fredericton's bus routes  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/fredericton-transit-bus-routes-1.6877785>

Omar Alghabra stresses importance of Dundas BRT  
<https://www.insauga.com/video-major-bus-rapid-transit-route-just-as-important-as-huge-lrt-projects-in-mississauga-transport-minister/>

No consultation on proposal to cut public transit to Fort William First Nation  
<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/proposal-to-cut-public-transit-to-fort-william-first-nation-upsetting-chief-7191336>

First segment of REM enters final testing phase, may open to the public before end of summer.  
<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/rem-light-rail-on-south-shore-could-launch-within-30-to-45-days-1.6456022>

Alstom's hydrogen train enters revenue service in Quebec  
<https://www.railwayage.com/passenger/alstoms-coradia-ilint-enters-revenue-service-in-quebec/>

More GO schedule updates for Lakeshore West passengers  
[https://www.insidehalton.com/news/more-time-go-train-schedule-changes-starting-monday-june-26-impacting-riders-on-lakeshore-west/article\\_ab8469ed-7e50-54a3-8146-245f9acc5282.html](https://www.insidehalton.com/news/more-time-go-train-schedule-changes-starting-monday-june-26-impacting-riders-on-lakeshore-west/article_ab8469ed-7e50-54a3-8146-245f9acc5282.html)

Rail shuttle to reduce truck traffic in downtown Halifax  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/halifax-rail-project-to-cut-truck-traffic-now-under-construction-1.6855003>

VIA Rail's new CEO, Mario Meloquin, announces expected return of trains 82/83 for London  
<https://london.ctvnews.ca/via-boss-aiming-to-return-popular-commuter-train-to-southwestern-ontario-this-fall-1.6462162>

USA: Amtrak begins 110 mph operation on St. Louis to Chicago Lincoln Service  
<https://news.wttw.com/2023/06/26/amtrak-s-st-louis-chicago-route-begins-faster-service-now-running-110-mph>

UK: Calculated GHG emissions from rail travel much lower than previously estimated  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jun/30/carbon-emissions-from-uk-rail-travel-lower->

[than-previously-thought](#)

USA: Honolulu passenger rail service launched

[https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger\\_rail/news/Honolulu-launches-Skyline-transit-rail-service--69576](https://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/Honolulu-launches-Skyline-transit-rail-service--69576)

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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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