



## Transport Action News - August 2023

### New Minister, New Maintenance Centre, New Metro



*VIA 2203, now in regular service between Ottawa and Quebec City, at the Gare de Palais on July 20*

Hello ,

A flurry of announcements preceded the cabinet reshuffle, with Pablo Rodriguez taking over the role of federal Minister of Transport at the end of July. These included the ground breaking for VIA Rail's Toronto Maintenance Centre modernization, and confirming millions of dollars in station upgrades in London and much-needed repairs to other stations in the corridor.

The federal government also announced the three shortlisted consortia to move into the Request for Proposals phase of procurement for High Frequency Rail, and appointed Martin Imbleau, previously head of the Montreal Port Authority, as CEO of VIA-HFR. Also in Montreal, the first segment of the REM light metro is now open to passengers.

In Alberta, the provincial government has announced its interest in commuter rail for Calgary and Edmonton, which bring daily passenger services back to western Canada for the first time in decades. We have reached out to support this initiative.

Click on the links below for more details on this and all of these stories.

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



### VIA Rail breaks ground on Toronto Maintenance Centre...

To support its new fleet of Siemens Venture trains for the Windsor to Quebec City corridor, VIA Rail is upgrading both the Toronto and Montreal Maintenance Centres. The formal ground breaking ceremony for the project in Toronto was held on July...

[Read more](#)

[www.transportaction.ca](http://www.transportaction.ca)





## London station upgrades announced

VIA Rail formally announced \$25M of investments in its London station on July 11, 2023. When complete, the improvements will make the station fully accessible, more environmentally sustainable, and...

[Read more](#)

[www.transportaction.ca](http://www.transportaction.ca)



## Make BC Ferries Walk-On Foot-Passenger Friendly

It is very nice for BC Ferries to provide free passage for resident seniors as foot passengers between Mondays and Thursdays, it would be nicer if the organization made it easier for seniors, and o...

[Read more](#)

[bc.transportaction.ca](http://bc.transportaction.ca)



## Alberta to Study Commuter Rail

The Hon. David Dreeshen, recently appointed as Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors for Alberta, has received his mandate letter from Premier Danielle Smith. This letter includes a dir...

[Read more](#)

[prairie.transportaction.ca](http://prairie.transportaction.ca)



## Trip Report: Réseau express métropolitain opening day

Harry Gow, President Emeritus of Transport Action Canada, and Luc Côté, former editor of Transport Action's national printed bulletin, took advantage of free rides offered to the public on the opening weekend on the new Montréal REM. Here are...

[Read more](#)

[www.transportaction.ca](http://www.transportaction.ca)



## Pablo Rodriguez takes over as Minister of Transport

Transport Action Canada, founded as Transport 2000 Canada in 1977, is the nation's leading citizen transportation advocacy group. We represent the interests of consumers or users of public transport services in Canada.

[Read more](#)

[www.transportaction.ca](http://www.transportaction.ca)

# Transportation Newsround

Vancouver Island: The economic case for the corridor

<https://www.timescolonist.com/opinion/comment-an-economic-case-for-keeping-the-rail-corridor-intact-7240531>

REM East proposal tops Ontario Line cost escalation at \$36bn and is therefore stalled

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/high-cost-of-east-end-montreal-rem-light-rail-link-raises-red-flags-1.6466853>

Who broke the TTC?

<https://torontolife.com/deep-dives/who-broke-the-ttc-inside-torontos-public-transit-disaster/>

CN tries to blame Amtrak for Adirondack suspension

<https://montrealgazette.com/business/local-business/amtrak-cn-at-odds-over-suspension-of-daily-montreal-new-york-train>

TRBOT transit report card ranks TTC lowest in the region after service cutbacks

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2023/07/05/toronto-transit-ttc-reliability-report-cards/>

Stratford train services at risk as London GO pilot ends

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/ctv-news-content/end-of-london-kitchener-go-train-service-bad-news-for-stratford-say-local-leaders-1.19862873>

VIA Rail breaks ground on Toronto Maintenance Centre upgrade

[https://www.toronto.com/news/via-rail-starts-major-upgrade-of-toronto-maintenance-facility/article\\_289f7e75-6a57-5ab1-a33a-45e0b6a0ca39.html](https://www.toronto.com/news/via-rail-starts-major-upgrade-of-toronto-maintenance-facility/article_289f7e75-6a57-5ab1-a33a-45e0b6a0ca39.html)

Alberta announces \$3M study for Calgary-Banff passenger rail

<https://www.mountainviewtoday.ca/beyond-local/province-announces-3-million-feasibility-study-of-calgary-banff-passenger-rail-project-7285916>

Newly appointed Alberta transport minister Devin Dreesen tasks with studying commuter rail, airport rail links

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-transportation-minister-tasked-with->



[studying-rail-lines-to-edmonton-airport-and-across-calgary-region-1.6905244](#)

Mayor Mike Bradley: A Case for more VIA Rail Trains in Sarnia

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-106-windsor-morning/clip/15996588-a-case-via-rail-trains-sarnia>

Canada funds rail infrastructure projects in Saskatchewan and Manitoba

[https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal\\_legislation\\_regulation/news/Canada-announces-millions-in-funding-for-rail-projects-in-Saskatchewan-Manitoba--67052](https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/Canada-announces-millions-in-funding-for-rail-projects-in-Saskatchewan-Manitoba--67052)

YRT replaces passes with fare capping after 40 trips, removes express surcharge

<https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/york-region-transit-replacing-monthly-passes-slashing-express-surcharge-7272117>

MPP Catherine Fife ask for clear timeline on all-day GO services for Kitchener

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/waterloo-mpp-petition-two-way-all-day-go-trains-catherine-fife-1.6906975>

Ottawa LRT shut down following discovery of worn bearing

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-lrt-closed-open-bearing-r1-bus-1.6909998>

HFR bid teams announced

<https://www.railjournal.com/news/three-consortia-in-running-for-canadas-high-frequency-rail-project/>

HFR now “mid-2030s” according to minister

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/via-rail-toronto-quebec-city-consortia-1.6912715>

Feds slow down timeline for faster Toronto-Quebec City railway

<https://montreal.citynews.ca/2023/07/20/feds-slow-down-timeline-for-faster-toronto-quebec-city-railway/>

Peterborough MP Michelle Ferreri blasts delays to HFR

[https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/via-rail-s-return-to-peterborough-will-take-even-longer-now/article\\_c2ab7d3a-776e-5663-8558-001c5f71bc0d.html](https://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/news/peterborough-region/via-rail-s-return-to-peterborough-will-take-even-longer-now/article_c2ab7d3a-776e-5663-8558-001c5f71bc0d.html)

Scarborough RT derailment

<https://www.cp24.com/news/scarborough-rt-derailment-sparks-questions-about-safety-1.6492901>

Software engineering student saves the day for frustrated LRT riders

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-lrt-routes-transit-1.6916027>

Northlander progress report

[https://www.muskokaregion.com/news/our-transportation-needs-are-connecting-our-communities-muskokas-rail-service-vital/article\\_3b2fb5d2-56b0-53e6-bad0-33fb2825a8d4.html](https://www.muskokaregion.com/news/our-transportation-needs-are-connecting-our-communities-muskokas-rail-service-vital/article_3b2fb5d2-56b0-53e6-bad0-33fb2825a8d4.html)

Metrolinx begins work on East Harbour, Riverside-Leslieville, and Gerrard stations

<https://www.rtands.com/passenger/construction-underway-for-three-new-stations-on-metrolinx-ontario-line/>

Alstom working on new axle bearing design for Citadis trains used on Ottawa LRT

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/lrt-won-t-reopen-for-at-least-another-week-1.6915773>

Thompson derailment disrupts freight and passenger service

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/train-derailment-thompson-arctic-gateway-manitoba-1.6919827>

New federal Transport Minister Pablo Rodriguez faces many challenges

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/rodriguez-transport-minister-1.6919048>

Montreal's new, for-profit light-rail system: national model or cautionary tale?

<https://www.lakelandtoday.ca/national-news/montreals-new-for-profit-light-rail-system-national-model-or-cautionary-tale-7336531>

REM south shore segment opens for passengers

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/and-theyre-off-rem-starts-shuttling-people-across-montreal-area>

Grand Prairie, AB, adds late-night on-demand transit service

<https://cityofgp.com/culture-community/news-events/news/transit/transit-introducing-late-night-service>

Confederation line closed until mid-August, councillors call for compensation

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/some-councillors-call-for-free-transit-to-compensate-oc-transpo-riders-for-latest-lrt-shutdown-1.6499351>

BC Transit strike resolved, Fraser Valley buses to return August 6

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/fraser-valley-buses-back-on-the-road-aug-6-with-free-transit-for-the-month-1.6921832>

Martin Imbleau appointed CEO of VIA-HFR

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/via-rail-ceo-president-montreal-port-authority-1.6923689>

Spain: M4 metro line opens to Milan Airport

<https://www.railtech.com/infrastructure/2023/07/05/milan-m4-metro-extension-reduces-journey-time-to-airport-to-12-minutes/>

Ukraine: RegioJet plans to run Kyiv-Berlin trains

<https://www.railtech.com/all/2023/07/06/regiojet-plans-to-run-kyiv-berlin-trains-from-2024/>

USA: Hudson Rail Tunnel projects gets long-awaited funding

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/dcn/news/infrastructure/2023/07/hudson-rail-tunnel-project-gets-a-6-88-billion-injection>

Ireland: All-Island Rail Review calls for route upgrades and reinstatements

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-66297150>

USA: Poor track condition, lax safety culture caused 2021 Empire Builder derailment - NTSB

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2023/07/28/ntsb-report-2021-amtrak-derailment/>

---

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!

Transport Action Canada | Charity Number: 11926 8571 RR0001 | [www.transportaction.ca](http://www.transportaction.ca)



