



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

Transport Action News - September 2023

HFR and SW Ontario advocacy updates



The Gare de Palais - Note recent repairs to the roof.

Hello ,

Maintaining its heritage stations across Canada, despite not being allowed to run nearly enough passenger service to them, is a major responsibility for VIA Rail. Therefore, this month's announcement of \$80 million for this work is appreciated. Some projects are already well advanced, including roof repairs at Quebec City's Gare de Palais, seen above.

Our advocacy for regional rail in southwestern Ontario continues, with London Mayor Josh Morgan meeting with board members Ken Westcar, Tariq Khan and myself on August 10. Transport Action supports London's vision of a rail, motorcoach, and intercommunity bus hub, with increased VIA Rail service as previously promised by the federal government.

In this month's newsletter we also bring you a rural transit success story from Simcoe County, Ontario. Thanks to supporters like you, Transport Action can advocate for many more such projects across the country that help people get around their communities and connect to

passenger rail services for longer trips. Let us know if you're reach out to your municipality or would like advice on doing so.

We are grateful to the Toronto Railway Historical Association for hosting a presentation on August 17, in which we explored opportunities for passenger rail investments ahead of the HFR project and outside of the Toronto-Quebec corridor. If you missed the presentation, you can download the slide deck: [Beyond HFR: Advancing Passenger Rail Across Canada](#).

At the end of the August, I also met with Jacques Fauteux and Sophie Roux from VIA-HFR to get an update on project progress and discuss Transport Action's ongoing concerns about the project's timeline and proposed outsourcing of operations. With three teams selected for the RFP phase, VIA-HFR is also commencing field studies along the route. (Details in the article below.) Transport Action will continue to ask the federal government and VIA-HFR to advance projects that also deliver benefits to VIA Rail's current operations, such as the announced plan to rebuild Dorval station as a multimodal hub, track improvements between Fallowfield and Ottawa, and the proposed Kingston Hub. It is also crucial to advance long-lead-time items like constructing a new tunnel to allow trains from Laval to reach Montreal's Central Station.

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

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donation



London should become a regional rail and bus hub

London is the economic hub of southwestern Ontario; and should also be its mobility hub with frequent and reliable rail and bus connections throughout the region. This was the message shared by all...

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VIA Rail announces \$80M investment in Heritage Stations

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.

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**Trip Report: Train de
Charlevoix Hydrogen Pilot**



**VIA-HFR commences field
studies between Ottawa and...**

Project

Transport Action president Terry Johnson travelled on the Train de Charlevoix as part of a family holiday in Quebec. These are his impressions of the service and the first North American deployment of Alstom's hydrogen-powered Coradia iLint train.

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One of Transport Action's concerns about the government's decision to create VIA-HFR as a separate entity to conduct the procurement process has been the lack of tangible progress on the ground, ot...

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Simcoe County's LINX Transit System celebrates five...

The County of Simcoe is celebrating a significant milestone as its LINX Transit service reaches its five-year anniversary. Since its launch in 2018, LINX Transit has undergone remarkable expansion,...

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Vancouver-Nanaimo Fast Ferry "Hullo" launches

The much-needed new Hullo passenger-only fast ferry service from downtown Nanaimo to downtown Vancouver began service on August 14, 2023 with an initial schedule of three daily sailings, which is e...

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Transportation Newsround

REM suffers glitches in first days of revenue service

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/rem-day-3-interruptions-1.6925176>

Charlottetown receives electric bus funding

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-transit-electric-buses-facility-expansion-2023-1.6925268>

Lethbridge receives federal zero-emission transit funding

<https://www.mylethbridgenow.com/32073/featured/lethbridge-feds-invest-toward-zero-emission-transit-fleet/>

Ottawa LRT reopening delayed until Aug 14

<https://www.cp24.com/news/ottawa-light-rail-transit-system-won-t-reopen-until-aug-14-at-earliest-oc-transpo-1.6502934>

Presto Card cost cut from \$6 to \$4

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/2023/08/02/metrolinx-lowering-price-of-presto-cards-next-week-apple-wallet/>

BC Ferries promises better performance for long weekend

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9875564/bc-ferries-ceo-expects-smooth-sailing-long-weekend/>

RTG to adjust Ottawa LRT check rails to reduce wear

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/oc-transpo-rideau-transit-group-begin-work-to-reposition-restraining-rails-on-o-train-line-1.6504779>

Nelson, BC calling for the increase in Provincial funding for transit

https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_4a0bca62-0ea3-5edc-9d1c-07bb5ebbbe17.html

BC Transit order for Proterra buses should be delivered as planned despite bankruptcy

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/bc-transit-still-hopes-to-receive-electric-buses-despite-makers-bankruptcy-7382853>

TTC now accepting credit and debit taps on Presto card readers

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9887867/ttc-accept-debit-credit-cards-fares/>

Sarnia to London, ON community bus ridership growing

<https://sarnianewstoday.ca/news/2023/08/10/wheels-on-the-bus-between-sarnia-and-london-continue-to-go-round>

Megabus / Trailways abandon downtown stop in Chatham, ON

<https://www.chathamdailynews.ca/news/megabus-ending-service-in-chatham-kent>

Milton Chamber of Commerce calls for transit improvements

https://www.insidehalton.com/opinion/public-transit-vital-to-our-community/article_b356d552-23d7-5744-ba6b-3b8b4e709afd.html

Monthly transit ridership in St Albert, AB passes pre-pandemic levels, revenues exceed target

<https://www.stalbertgazette.com/local-news/monthly-transit-ridership-surpasses-pre-pandemic-levels-city-7338750>

Burlington receives electric bus funding

https://www.thespec.com/news/cleaning-up-the-earth-one-bus-at-a-time-feds-investing-370-000-in-electrifying/article_38c4c8dd-419d-502b-8383-53b0de8953b2.html

Ottawa's Confederation Line resumes service August 14th

https://www.thestar.com/politics/ottawa-s-light-rail-transit-service-fully-up-and-running-after-month-long-closure/article_5c16c5f3-0001-5079-bf12-d8b974381854.html

Metrolinx launches scooter pilot at Mount Pleasant, Brampton and Bramalea.

<https://www.haltonhillstoday.ca/local-news/metrolinx-launches-e-scooter-pilot-program-in-brampton-7402975>

Hullo ferry service between Vancouver and Nanaimo begins

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/hullo-ferries-sets-sail-between-nanaimo-vancouver-after-2-day-delay-1.6521816>

Stratford votes to cover MTO funding shortfall for PC Connect bus service

<https://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/news/local-news/stratford-council-votes-to-continue-pc-connect-transit-service-to-march-2025-despite-mto-funding-shortfall>

Vancouver celebrates 75 years of trolleybus service

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/local-news/photos-translink-marks-75-years-of-trolley-bus-service-in-metro-vancouver-7410816>

Opinion: The case for far more investment in Ontario's public transit systems

https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/the-case-for-far-more-investment-in-ontario-s-public-transit-systems/article_977e97ca-ddc7-56b4-b1e7-c4eb7f27c754.html

Limited YRT service hours restrict Newmarket residents' employment opportunities

<https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/newmarket-resident-shares-frustrations-of->

[commuting-on-york-region-transit-7426991](#)

Veteran and retired CN employee celebrates 100th birthday touring Canada by train

<https://rock101.com/news/9913552/this-is-bc-veteran-100th-birthday/>

Edmonton's new limited stop express bus cuts travel time to University of Alberta

<https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/new-southwest-edmonton-super-express-bus-route-starts-in-september-1.6533735>

UK: First Tram-Trains unveiled for South Wales Metro

<https://www.railadvent.co.uk/2023/07/first-tram-trains-unveiled-for-new-south-wales-metro.html>

USA: Grade crossing design contributed to fatal Amtrak-truck collision - NTSB

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/federal_legislation_regulation/news/NTSB-Grade-crossing-design-contributed-to-fatal-Amtrak-truck-collision--69855

USA: 92% of Americans want improved safety and services for passenger rail

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/amtrak-releases-survey-showing-support-for-passenger-rail/>

USA: Connecticut DOT orders 60 new single-level cars from Alstom for CTRail

<https://www.alstom.com/press-releases-news/2023/8/alstom-supply-60-single-level-coach-cars-connecticut-department-transportation-its-statewide-rail-system>

USA: Permit sought for autonomous railcar testing

<https://www.railwayage.com/freight/short-lines-regionals/gc-hog-file-petition-with-fra-to-pilot-parallel-systems-technology/>

Germany: Hydrogen not justified in situations batteries can be charged at electrified stations.

<https://www.hydrogeninsight.com/transport/hydrogen-will-almost-always-lose-out-to-battery-electric-in-german-rail-transport-train-manufacturer/2-1-1504868>

USA: California HSR seeks 220 mph capable trains

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/high-speed/california-high-speed-rail-authority-begins-procurement-of-355-km/h-trains/64802.article>

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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