



TRANSPORT ACTION
CANADA

Transport Action News - October 2023 Parliament scrutinizing HFR



Ottawa Trillium Line - Crew working on switches at South Keys.

Hello ,

With Parliament returning for the fall session, High Frequency Rail was at the top of the agenda for the Transport Committee, so I travelled to Ottawa on September 20 to appear as a witness, noting that my ten-hour journey would be cut to six and a half if the project is finally built, while continuing to be critical of the outsourcing of VIA Rail's services to a private partner. Full story below.

Also in Ottawa, despite another summer of troubles for LRT, work on the Trillium Line is looking much nearer to completion, but another entire academic and parliamentary year is likely to be missed before it reopens to the public, not now expected until at least April 2024.

VIA Rail will make some schedule changes on October 24, as detailed below, but hasn't been able to provide a date for the return of train 651 from Kingston to Toronto yet.

On Vancouver Island, progress by both levels of government seems elusive, and a formal petition to the House of Commons has been launched, calling upon Canada to "Work with dedicated resources and with a nation-to-nation approach to reconcile and resolve long-standing First Nations' concerns with certain sections of the Island Corridor." [Please sign and share this petition.](#)

Meanwhile, Ontario Northland is holding a series of townhalls along the route and two online sessions to prepare for the return of the Northlander, so if you live in the region of look forward to returning there by train, check out the [meeting schedule](#).

In our "Newsround" section this month you'll find several encouraging stories about transit ridership growth, so let's keep working to ensure the investments are made to build and maintain even better transit for all Canadians.

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!

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House of Commons scrutinising High Frequency Rail

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities has launched a study to scrutinize the government's policies for High Frequency Rail and delivery of the project.



VIA Rail confirms added services from London and Ottawa...

VIA Rail has announced the reinstatement of trains 82 and 83 with a start date of October 24, 2023. Two round trips between Ottawa and Toronto are also being reinstated to help meet travel demand on weekends.

[Read more](#)
www.transportaction.ca



Atlantic Transport News - Summer Round-up

VIA Rail summer service disruptions and equipment RFI; Feds to buy Norwegian ferry for PEI; Chignecto Isthmus funding squabble continues; Transit ridership rising and positive service changes coming for Halifax

[Read more](#)

transportationatlantic.ca



Kitchener GO construction progress - Fall 2023

Metrolinx is making progress addressing the bottleneck on the Kitchener Line between Georgetown and Kitchener. There are currently no opportunities for trains to pass each other west of Georgetown,...

[Read more](#)

ontario.transportation.ca

Transportation Newsround

How Brampton's transit grew to serve more riders than many major North American cities

https://www.bramptonguardian.com/news/how-brampton-s-transit-system-grew-to-serve-more-riders-than-many-major-north-american/article_63e97c19-5bca-5ba2-a995-cea6eac2d7da.html

Cornwall transit staff take strike vote

<https://www.standard-freeholder.com/news/local-news/cornwall-transit-bus-drivers-one-step-closer-to-striking>

Peterborough transit increasing services as ridership grows

<https://globalnews.ca/video/9956192/transit-committee-approves-of-potential-upcoming-system-changes>

REM train controls exposed after vandals pull panel off

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/rem-controls-accessible-to-passengers-on-automated-train-to-montreal-after-vandalism-1.6563011>

Belleville hits million-passenger target months early

<https://www.quintenews.com/2023/09/19/315308/>

CDPQinfra provides update on future REM phases

<https://www.railwayage.com/passenger/light-rail/cdpq-infra-provides-update-on-montreals-rem/>

OC Transpo financial woes continue, threaten LRT to Barrhaven

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/dire-financial-straits-for-oc-transpo-could-spell-the-end-for-stage-3-lrt-1.6566674>

OC Transpo General Manager Renée Amilcar call for federal transit funding boost

<https://o.canada.com/news/local-news/oc-transpo-head-makes-case-for-new-federal-transit-funding>

Stittsville, Kanata and Barrhaven need better bus service while waiting on Stage 3 LRT

<https://o.canada.com/news/local-news/councillors-for-stittsville-kanata-barrhaven-want-better-bus-plan-in-place-while-waiting-on-stage-3-lrt>

Concrete railway tie plant to be located in North Bay

<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/north-bay-perfectly-located-for-canadas-first-concrete-rail-tie-production-facility-7562713>

Quebec government invests a further \$60M in railway upgrades

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/cjad/news/quebec-spending-60-million-to-improve-and-upgrade-railway-system-1.20271656>

Vancouver HandyDART passengers speak out against taxi substitution

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9976354/handydart-riders-surge-taxis/>

Ontario to legislate a “Station Contribution Fee” to fund new GO infrastructure

<https://www.amo.on.ca/policy/finance-infrastructure-and-economy/new-ministers-and-transit-legislation>

Halifax ferry malfunction reduces schedules

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/transit-troubles-continue-with-halifax-ferries-down-1.6578663>

Olivia Chow slams Crosstown LRT delays

<https://www.cp24.com/news/it-s-just-unbearable-toronto-mayor-disappointed-metrolinx-still-can-t-provide-opening-date-for-eglinton-crosstown-1.6579709>

BC Transit to add Kootenay Connector frequencies

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/bounce/kootenays/news/bc-transit-presents-to-nelson-city-council-1.20308945>

Ontario Northland hosts public information sessions for Northlander return

<https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/future-northlander-passengers-give-input-at-public-information-session-1.6583913>

Ottawa Trillium Line opening date pushed back to April 2024

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/operating-costs-for-new-trillium-line-expected-to-be-3-5-million-a-month-1.6583194>

Ottawa Confederation Line to try using anti-icing spray this winter

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/ctv-news-content/anti-icing-chemicals-to-be-sprayed-on-lrt-line-this-winter-to-prevent-freezing-rain-buildup-1.20317207>

Ontario Northland starts townhall meetings to prepare for return of train service

<https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/future-northlander-passengers-give-input-at-public-information-session-1.6583913>

USA: Amtrak presents “accessible core” concept for future long-distance fleet

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/amtrak-reveals-new-long-distance-trainset-concepts-at-accessibility-hearing/>

Middle East: Iran-Iraq rail like to be re-established

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/infrastructure/work-starts-on-iran-iraq-rail-link>

Brazil: Government backs passenger rail revival

<https://www.railwaygazette.com/passenger/brazilian-government-to-back-passenger-train-revival/64881.article>

USA: Missouri seeks additional Amtrak services

<https://cityscenekc.com/modot-seeks-new-amtrak-service-from-kc-to-springfield-st-joe-stl/>

Luxembourg: How well is free public transport working?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/sep/20/all-aboard-can-luxembourgs-free-public-transport-help-save-the-world>

USA: Brightline opens 125mph extension to Orlando

<https://www.axios.com/local/miami/2023/09/22/train-route-orlando-debuts-brightline>

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

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Thank you again for your continued support!

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