



## Transport Action News - November 2023

### Calling for a Fair Rail for Passengers Act



*VIA Rail station at Smith Falls. More investments like this to improve both passenger and freight capacity must accompany new rules about on time performance.*

Hello ,

The big news this month is that VIA Rail is now publicly calling for track priority and passenger rights legislation - something we have always asked for - as part of a toolbox to make train travel in Canada more reliable and efficient. See story below... Public transport operators in Europe are now collaborating on "journey continuance", meaning that if one part of the trip is late, the next leg of your journey is still protected even if its operated by a different company. We would like to see this for multi-modal journeys in Canada too!

Meanwhile, High Frequency Rail is now technically a HSR project. The RFP sets a minimum speed of 125 mph / 200 km/h and bidders must also submit a proposal to go even faster on the dedicated track segments. Either option requires far more infrastructure than originally envisaged, so the danger is that the government will once again balk at the scale of the project.



VIA Rail's new reservation system passed its pre-launch testing at the end of October and will launch on November 18th. Watch our website and social media for details as we get them.

Finally, don't forget to sign the [petition for Vancouver Island rail](#). We recently received a response from Minister Pablo Rodriguez, and need to keep up the pressure on the government to back its statements about reconciliation with resources and action.

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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### VIA Rail CEO calls for Rail Passenger Bill of Rights

For decades, VIA Rail's only avenue to address delays attributable to its host railways has been to lengthen schedules, which sharply increases operating costs, reduces the number of frequencies VIA can operate with its equipment, and makes rail...

[Read more](#)

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

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### **Will HFR be fast or faster? Slow-moving government...**

Contrary to the initial proposal which would have seen a private partner construct the new infrastructure segments for VIA Rail, the government now intends the selected private sector consortium to operate the new services, together with VIA...

[Read more](#)

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### **Petition: Reconciliation and Rail for Vancouver Island**

Since the announcement earlier this year that both levels of government wanted to pursue a reconciliation-first approach to the Vancouver Island Corridor, indications of progress toward reconcilia...



### **Briefing Note on North Main Line (NML) Passenger Rail**

Transport Action Ontario has issued a briefing note for municipal stakeholders on the opportunity, status and suggested next steps on passenger rail service on the North Main Line (London - S...

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

## **Transportation Newsround**

CN software upgrade problem halts trains, strands GO and VIA passengers

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/rail-outage-that-stranded-via-go-train-other-passengers-caused-by-software-upgrade-cn-1.6588779>

VIA apologises as Venture train failure leaves passengers stuck on bridge for hours

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-via-rail-stuck-1.6989298>

Oshawa GO platform tracks being renewed

<https://durhampost.ca/tracks-being-replaced-at-durham-college-oshawa-go>

OC Transpo and City implement more than half of recommendations from LRT inquiry

<https://ottawa.citynews.ca/2023/10/10/oc-transpo-and-city-implements-more-than-half-of-recommendations-from-lrt-inquiry/>

Ottawa LRT root-cause review raises more questions than it answers

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/light-rail-ottawa-train-alstom-transit-commission-1.6992436>

REM service to be restricted for six weeks for noise reduction work

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/rem-service-to-be-restricted-for-six-weeks-as-crews-begin-noise-reduction-work-1.6596420>



Friday 13 last call for London GO train

<https://www.stratfordtoday.ca/local-news/friday-is-last-call-for-go-train-service-in-stratford-7682229>

Ottawa LRT builders can't agree on what went wrong

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/how-will-riders-get-on-board-when-lrt-builders-can-t-agree-on-what-went-wrong-1.6996031>

Crash beams to protect key Montreal rail bridge

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10017170/crash-beams-westmount-greene-avenue/>

Quebec demonstration of Alstom's iLint wraps up

<https://www.railwayage.com/passenger/alstom-concludes-demonstration-of-coradia-ilint/>

HFR inches along as RFP phase launched

<https://www.trains.com/trn/news-reviews/news-wire/canadas-high-frequency-rail-project-begins-request-for-proposal-phase/>

For better or for worse: PEI ferry breaks down, but couple still able to renew wedding vows

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-wedding-vows-confederation-ferry-1.6996546>

Despite promises, wheelchair users say REM isn't accessible enough

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/despite-promises-wheelchair-users-say-rem-isn-t-accessible-enough-1.6602581>

Richmond, BC rejects Translink BRT proposal

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/richmond-brt-rapidbus-rejection-translink>

Edmonton's Valley Line Southeast is ready to begin service on November 4

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/edmonton-s-valley-line-southeast-lrt-to-open-1.7006127>

Montreal transit under threat from budget wrangling

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/cjad/news/ending-the-metro-at-11-p-m-montreal-considering-transit-reductions-amid-funding-spat-with-quebec-1.20412046>

B.C. Transit asks for feedback on Victoria fare increase

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/bc-transit-asks-for-feedback-on-proposed-fare-increase-7761211>

Montreal-area mayors call out Quebec over 'radio silence' on public transit funding

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/public-transit-deficit-negotiations-quebec-government-1.7013843>

UK: Will self-driving buses and trackless trams revolutionize public transport?

<https://theconversation.com/self-driving-buses-that-go-wherever-you-want-how-the-uk-is-trying-to-revolutionise-public-transport-214323>

USA: California signs hydrogen train deal with Stadler for ACE and San Joaquin routes

<https://www.railtech.com/rolling-stock/2023/10/13/california-signs-with-stadler-for-americas-first-hydrogen-trains/>

Saudi Arabia to test Alstom's iLint hydrogen trains

<https://www.railtech.com/rolling-stock/2023/10/10/saudi-arabia-railways-starts-hydrogen-train-tests-with-alstom/>

Spanish firm to compete on London-Paris route

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/spanish-rail-firm-evolyn-planning-london-paris-service-rival-eurostar>

Germany: DB service reliability plummets

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/oct/14/its-the-same-daily-misery-germanys-terrible-trains-are-no-joke-for-a-nation-built-on-efficiency>

Eurostar and five more operators join the Agreement on Journey Continuation

<https://www.railtech.com/all/2023/10/25/eurostar-and-five-more-operators-join-the-agreement-on-journey-continuation-what-does-it-entail/>

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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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