

Mobility for Niagara: GO + VIA Rail



About Transport Action

- Founded in 1976 by citizens concerned about Canada's intercity and urban public transportation systems
- A special interest in VIA Rail Canada and the numerous benefits of rail passenger service
- Endorsed by several local governments, chambers of commerce and citizens' groups in Southwestern Ontario

VIA or GO for Niagara?



Both VIA and GO are required to fully meet Niagara's needs

- GO and VIA are not competitors
- Each provides a different type of service
- VIA delivers express service for longer-haul travel
- GO provides a service more geared to local travel
- Both can work together to deliver an integrated and coordinated two-tiered service

The Case for VIA Expansion in Niagara

- Equipment and station facilities available
- Rolling stock better suited for longer-haul trips
- A small service increase would yield big benefits
- VIA has publicly stated it is interested
- A vital connection to other large regional economies

Amtrak's Empire Corridor



Federal government's agenda favours VIA Rail expansion

- Addressing climate change
- Economic stimulus through infrastructure investment
- Connecting communities to create social and economic opportunities
- Pro-rail MPs and Cabinet Ministers

Why should St. Catharines request VIA Rail expansion in Niagara?

- No cost to St. Catharines or other municipalities
- Multiple economic, social and environmental benefits if implemented by the federal government
- Builds a foundation for future GO service
- A necessary piece of the full transportation system Niagara requires to be competitive and sustainable