

2 May 2016



New details of Public Transit Infrastructure Fund made public

A major step in the federal-provincial dialogue surrounding the new Public Transit Infrastructure Fund (PTIF) was made public recently when [the letters](#) that Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities **Amrajeet Sohi** sent to his provincial counterparts across the country.

The letters say that the PTIF will “support investments that meet immediate public priorities including: projects that improve the state of good repair of public transit, that support system optimization and efficiency, increase asset management capacity, and design and planning for future expansion of public transit systems. Effective use of innovative new technologies that can unlock improved environmental benefits and projects that advance improvements in safety and accessibility are also eligible. Projects for system expansion may be considered if they can be completed within the program timeframe. We all know that to grow transit ridership, a multitude of factors should be considered, and for that reason I would also encourage you to work with municipalities and transit agencies to promote targeted investments in active transportation.”

This should provide transit systems with some needed clarity as to the scope of this new fund, which will transfer \$3.4 Billion over three years based on systems’ ridership.

The letter also stated that every transit system will receive a base funding of \$50,000 and reiterated that the federal cost share of the fund will be 50%.

Additionally, the letters states that projects are considered eligible as of April 1, 2016—meaning work can begin immediately on transit projects that are believed to be eligible under this fund. That said, transit systems should keep in mind that the parameters of this federal program are subject to change during negotiations with the provinces. Details such as when funding will flow, how much each system will receive in federal funding and the size of any provincial contributions are still unknown and systems should proceed with caution.

For more information, please contact [Jeff Mackey](#).

Keynote Speakers at CUTA's Annual Conference

We’re very excited to share with you that **the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities** and **William Woodford, Transportation Analysis & Ridership Forecasting Expert** will be attending the [CUTA Annual Conference in Halifax from May 14-18, 2016!](#) We encourage you to have a look at the [schedule at a glance](#) and the [detailed program](#) on CUTA's website to start planning your conference experience today.

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, has kindly accepted our invitation to address CUTA delegates at the Halifax Conference on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at the

Welcome Reception at the [Maritime Museum of the Atlantic](#). CUTA delegates will have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Minister on how the federal government can best take a leadership role in creating a forward-looking investment strategy for transit and integrated urban mobility. Sohi was appointed Minister of Infrastructure and Communities in Prime Minister Trudeau's first cabinet on November 4, 2015. Before being elected as Member of Parliament for Edmonton Mill Wood in 2015, Amarjeet Sohi served as City Councillor in Edmonton. During his three terms, Mr. Sohi dedicated his time in improving Edmonton's infrastructure and livability, he also represented the city at the Canadian Urban Transit Association, and has been a strong advocate for public transit.

William Woodford has 35 years of consulting experience in the areas of travel demand forecasting, ridership forecasting, and transportation planning. He has focused his career on the planning and development of fixed guideway transit projects with a particular emphasis on transit ridership forecasting, alternatives analysis, and system analysis. He has consulted with many of the largest transit agencies in the United States, including those in Chicago, New York, Newark, Washington, Denver, Los Angeles, and San Jose. He worked with the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration and state DOTs in New York, Virginia, and Maine. Mr. Woodford also works closely with the Federal Transit Administration, most recently as the developer of the Simplified Trips-on-Project Software (STOPS). Mr. Woodford holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia and an MS in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. [Register now for the CUTA Annual Conference](#)

For more information, contact [Paulina Cadena](#) at extension 118.

CUTA's Annual General Meeting

CUTA's Annual General Meeting will take place at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia on Wednesday 18 May 2016 from 0800-1015 hrs, including breakfast. The [meeting agenda](#) is attached for your reference. All members are encouraged to attend. While only Transit System Members are eligible to vote, all Members have the right to participate and speak at the AGM.

For more information please contact [Joanne Vézina](#) at 613-690-5139.

2016 Annual Conference in Halifax, May 14 to 18 – Program Spaces filling up fast!

We are fast approaching the 2016 Annual Conference in Halifax and are very excited about the program! If you haven't already registered, [make sure you do](#); connect with old and new colleagues in the industry and take advantage of the diverse program that's in store for you, including our City Tours and Companion Program and not to mention the Technical Tours. *We have something for everyone!*

Here is just a snippet of the Technical Tours that are available to you in Halifax:

- Improving the Transit Experience: Lessons Learned in Terminal Construction
- Maintenance Matters: An inside look at what keeps us moving
- Over and Under the Halifax Harbour: Highlighting innovations in engineering and science taking place on the Halifax Harbour
- You'll Love to Ride the Ferry: A cross-harbour archaeological, historical and technical tour.

If you are travelling with a companion we have the following to offer as part of the Companion Program:

- Harbour Hopper City Tour
- At Your Leisure- Spend the afternoon exploring the shops and sites along the Halifax Waterfront
- Annapolis Valley Wine Tour
- Halifax by Bike: See the sites along the historic waterfront and through downtown.

If you are interested in taking part of the Halifax City Tour, this is what the lineup looks like:

- Halifax Tour: Tour some of Halifax's most famous and historic sites!
- Peggy's Cove Tour: Vist the famous Peggy's Cove, located on Nova Scotia's celebrated Lighthouse Route.

Don't forget to sign up at the Registration Desk, as it is on a first come first serve basis!

Join transit professionals from across Canada at the centre of it all – in Halifax! [Register today](#).

For more information about the conference , please contact [Paulina Cadena](#) at extension 118.

New CUTA Website Launched

It's live! The new cuta.ca was launched on Monday April 25 after several months of development. The most notable change is the design of the website, featuring a more vibrant representation of the industry and members. Additionally, visitors to the site will see that some of the service areas of the association have been combined into single menus such as [training and events](#) as well as an improved [resources menu](#) (resources now includes research, data, publications as well as the work developed through committees as task forces). CUTA also launched a new [blog](#) section that will features regular CUTA entries on government and policy, leadership, training as well as guest bloggers and SMEs from membership and the industry. Take some time to get to know the new site and if you have any questions, comments or story suggestions – we'd love to hear from you.

For more information about the website, please contact [Erin Brophy](#) or at 613-782-2924.

Stand Out with *Canadian Transit FORUM* magazine!

Advertising positions are now available in the August 2016 issue of *Canadian Transit FORUM* magazine – available both in print and digital. Stand out in front of our members who represent nearly 100% of Canada's public transit industry. Positions include display advertising, digital positions, direct mail opportunities, and more!

For more information on advertising visit our [media kit here](#) or contact [Candace Bremner](#) at 204-975-3616

Fleet, Conventional, and Specialized Monthly Benchmark Reports

The Technical Services Department will soon be releasing the April monthly benchmark report for the, upcoming, **Fleet and On-board Equipment Statistics Report, Conventional Transit Statistics Report (UTS), and Specialized Transit Statistics Report (STS)**. These reports capture the preliminary data that was received as of April 30th. If you have not submitted survey submissions for any of these reports, there is still time to do so! Please keep an eye out for the final report of all data to be published this fall.

For more information or to submit your survey submissions, please contact [Calvin Chia](#) at extension 112.

Industry Professional Development and Training Update

Congratulations to the participants of our latest Transit Scheduling and Runcutting Level I, from April 18-22, 2016. It was a busy week; filled with fun team work! If you missed coming to this Transit Scheduling and Runcutting Level I, we are still accepting registrations for September 19-23, 2016.

We also delivered customized training for BNSF in Topeka, Kansas to a team of 15 people using CUTA's Transit Ambassador and Transit Supervision principles as well as reflecting on how teams can work hard but encounter barriers to getting desired results. This 3-day session focuses on getting your team to work in synergy, to excel in customer service and achieve agreed upon goals and results.

For more information or to register contact [Kevin Brown](#) at ext. 121

Transit Ambassador is calling out for participants in Western Canada

May is Transit Ambassador Month for Training at CUTA! We will be hosting 2 Transit Ambassador learning events, one hosted by York Region Transit and the other in Des Moines, Iowa.

CUTA Training and Professional Development has had expressions of interest from members in Western Canada for us to bring a Transit Ambassador learning event closer to them, so we are calling out to all the properties in the West to let us know if you have trainers to certify for the Transit Ambassador program and have your operators learn communication skills to deliver an excellent experience to your ridership.

For more information or to register contact [Kevin Brown](#) at extension 121.

CUTA's partnership with OutMatch.com

OutMatch.com (formerly Assess Systems) is poised to bring a suite of online tools to help recruiters and human resources professionals make better hiring choices and measure the value that an employee hire delivers to their organizations. These tools help transit systems and municipalities use data to demonstrate the vital role of Human Resources, Recruitment and Hiring departments in getting the next generation engaged in transit careers.

Come hear how OutMatch helps CUTA members at CUTA's Annual General Meeting and conference in Halifax on May 15th.