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Transportation's Top Stories

## Air Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### **Plan your winter getaway with Porter's flights to Mont-Tremblant**

It's time to start the winter season with Porter Airlines' service to Mont-Tremblant, Que. Beginning December 16, 2022, through March 27, 2023, Porter offers convenient, non-stop flights between Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport and Mont-Tremblant International Airport. Porter delivers travellers from Toronto's downtown to the popular winter destination in as little as 70 minutes. The winter schedule includes up to four weekly flights, with connections from various Porter locations also available. Travellers can enjoy world-class amenities, with more than 100 ski trails in the region and a European-style pedestrian village featuring lodging, restaurants and boutiques. Porter Escapes makes your planning even easier with complete flight, hotel and ski packages. Visit Porter Escapes or [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com) for more information.

*Plan your winter getaway with Porter's flights to Mont-Tremblant, December 16, 2022, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)*

#### **Update on operations at Canadian airports ahead of the holiday season**

The delays experienced this summer at airports were unacceptable. The Government of Canada and its partners continued to work together this fall to ensure that the next busy season, the holiday season, goes smoothly. This included the holding of an industry Air Sector Recovery Summit that took place on November 24, 2022. The Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, issued this update on December 16, 2022 on the continued action and progress being made by the Government of Canada and industry partners to optimize air travel operations as Canadians head into the holiday season. To help travellers the government has issued best practices for travelling this holiday season. They are categorized into groups such as: 1. Before you go; 2. Reminders; and 3. Advance CBSA

Declaration. For further information on each of these groups visit Transport Canada website.

*Update on operations at Canadian airports ahead of the holiday season, December 16, 2022, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca)*

#### **Porter Airlines announces Halifax as its latest destination between Toronto Pearson with the Embraer E195-E2**

Porter Airlines is introducing the newest route with its Embraer E195-E2 aircraft, between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ). Porter has been serving the Halifax community since 2007. Passengers can now choose to travel with Porter using two Toronto airports on this popular route, including the downtown convenience of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

*Porter Airlines announces Halifax as its latest destination between Toronto Pearson with the Embraer E195-E2, December 20, 2022, [www.flyporter.com](http://www.flyporter.com)*

#### **Air Canada Announces Results of its Offer to Purchase up to US\$300 million aggregate principal amount of its 4.000% Convertible Senior Notes due 2025**



Source: Air Canada

Air Canada (AC) on December 20, 2022 announced the final results of its cash tender offer previously announced on November 14, 2022 (the "Offer") to purchase for cancellation up to US\$300 million aggregate principal amount of its outstanding 4.000% Convertible Senior Notes due July 1, 2025 (CUSIP No. 008911 BF5) (the "Notes"), which expired on December 19, 2022. An aggregate of US\$266,053,000 principal amount of Notes was validly deposited under the Offer and not withdrawn prior to its expiration. Air Canada has taken up and accepted for purchase and cancellation all such deposited Notes at a purchase price of US\$1,220 in cash per US\$1,000 principal amount of Notes, plus a cash payment in respect of all accrued and unpaid interest outstanding on such Notes up to, but excluding, the date of take-up of the Notes, for total consideration of about US\$329,580,544. Payment for such Notes taken up and purchased by Air Canada under the Offer is expected to be made on December 20, 2022, but in any event, by no later than December 22, 2022, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Offer as detailed in the offer to purchase, its accompanying issuer bid circular and the related letter of transmittal. Air Canada did not make the Offer conditional on any minimum principal amount of Notes being deposited, preserving optionality for holders while allowing Air Canada to further deleverage its balance sheet.

*Air Canada Announces Results of its Offer to Purchase up to US\$300 million aggregate principal amount of its 4.000% Convertible Senior Notes due 2025, December 20, 2022, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)*

### **CTA publishes a new dashboard providing the number of complaints it receives per 100 flights flown by airlines**

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) on December 19, 2022 announced the publication of new data to provide Canadians with additional information about the air travel sector. The data shows the number of air travel complaints submitted to the CTA per 100 flights operated by Canadian and foreign airlines. The complaints data is compiled by the CTA and will be updated on a quarterly basis. The tables include: 1. air travel complaint data submitted during 3-month time periods; 2. airlines that operated a minimum of 100 flights to/from/within Canada during each time period; 3. airlines with an average of 1 or more complaints per 100 flights.

*CTA publishes a new dashboard providing the number of complaints it receives per 100 flights flown by airlines, December 19, 2022, [www.otc-cta.gc.ca](http://www.otc-cta.gc.ca)*

### **Air Canada and Cirque du Soleil Renew Partnership to Bring a World of Wonder to Millions Worldwide**



Source: Air Canada

Dec. 21, 2022, Air Canada and *Cirque du Soleil*® announced the renewal of their exclusive partnership that will see Air Canada continue as the official airline for Big Top and Arena shows in Canada, the U.S., Europe and Australia through December 2024. The two globally renowned, Quebec-based companies will celebrate bringing Canadian creativity and talent to the world at tonight's Montreal premiere of *Corteo* by *Cirque du Soleil* at the Bell Centre. More than 125 million spectators have experienced a *Cirque du Soleil* Big Top or Arena show since 1984 as its wondrous productions remain enduring and relevant in culture, internationally.

*Air Canada and Cirque du Soleil Renew Partnership to Bring a World of Wonder to Millions Worldwide, December 21, 2022, [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca)*

### **Monthly civil aviation statistics, October 2022**

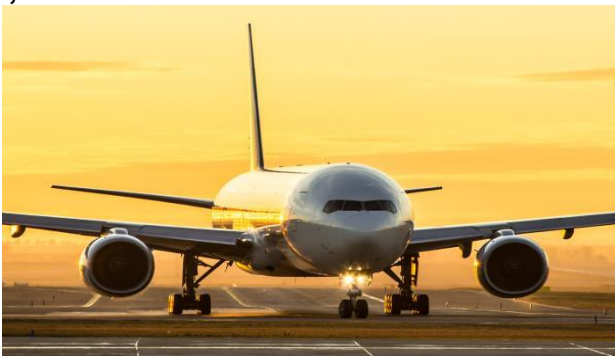


Source: Statistics Canada

Major Canadian airlines carried 6.0 million passengers on scheduled and charter services in October 2022, almost double the number of passengers carried in the same month in 2021 and 90.6% of the October 2019 level, before the COVID-19 pandemic. The passenger load factor (the ratio of passenger-kilometres to available seat-kilometres) was 81.5% in October 2022, higher than the 81.0% recorded in October 2019, before the pandemic. The \$1.9 billion operating revenue earned in October 2022 was 98.1% of that earned in October 2019, before the pandemic.

*Monthly civil aviation statistics, October 2022, December 21, 2022, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

### **Aircraft movement statistics: Major and select small airports, October 2022**



Source: Statistics Canada

In October 2022, Canada's major and select small airports recorded a total of 482,359 aircraft movements. This was an increase of 12.5% from October 2021 and was 89.5% of the level from October 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Other international movements continued to recover in October 2022, reaching 92.3% of the pre-pandemic level in 2019. However, the number of domestic movements from Level I to III and foreign carriers fell to 82.5% of its October 2019 level, while movements to and from the United States declined to 78.2% of its October 2019 level. Toronto/Lester B. Pearson remained Canada's busiest airport with over 31,000 movements in the month, more than 35% higher than the next busiest. On October 1, 2022 all COVID-19 border restrictions, including vaccination, mandatory use of the ArriveCAN app, and any testing and quarantine requirements, were removed for all travellers entering Canada.

*Aircraft movement statistics: Major and select small airports, October 2022, December 21, 2022, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

## **US/WORLD**

### **ASL Aviation and robotics developer to work on autonomous cargo planes**

Aviation services provider ASL Aviation Holdings, and Reliable Robotics Corporation, which develops autonomous aircraft systems are collaborating to develop automated aircraft. Together, the companies will select a suitable aircraft for Reliable's Remotely Operated Aircraft System. The company's plan to start with large twin-engine turboprop freighters. ASL and Reliable will jointly assess the demand for remotely operated aircraft in Europe. Both companies are part of the ASL CargoVision Forum, which brings together companies engaged in the development of sustainable aviation technologies. "This collaboration between ASL and Reliable is anchored on a common purpose to fully evaluate how remote and single pilot technologies can be developed and used to deliver safe, reliable and cost-effective cargo and passenger services," said ASL Aviation Holdings director, Hugh Flynn.

*ASL Aviation and robotics developer to work on autonomous cargo planes, December 19, 2022, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)*



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## Rail Transport Updates

### CANADA

#### Transport Canada Announces Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement



Source: Railway Age

The government of Canada announced a new rail safety funding program called the Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement to “encourage Indigenous and local communities to participate in rail safety initiatives in Canada,” as well as a Call for Proposals for the program, with up to \$1.6 million in funding, open now until February 16, 2023, Transport Canada reported Dec. 15, 2022. The new program, which builds on rail safety funding announced last year through the Community Participation Funding Program, will “further expand opportunities for those interested in sharing their knowledge and expertise about local environments,” Transport Canada said. “The knowledge and expertise of Indigenous and local communities is vital in making sure rail safety initiatives and future programming continue to keep communities in Canada safe,” the agency added. According to Transport Canada, the program aims to: 1. “Provide capacity and relationship building funding for Indigenous and local communities, organizations and entities to establish engagement processes specific to rail transportation in the relevant geographic area; and 2. “Support Indigenous and local participation in developing and improving

Canada’s rail safety system by providing opportunities to consult, engage, collaborate, participate in processes and undertake research or studies.”

*Transport Canada Announces Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement, December 16, 2022, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)*

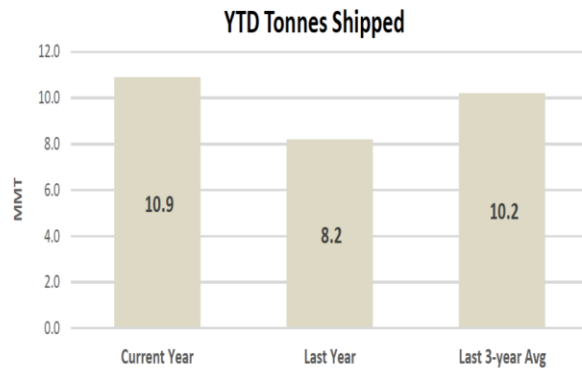
#### Unifor files for conciliation in CN talks



Source: Inside Logistics

Unifor has requested conciliation in its contract talks with CN. The union and railway started bargaining on October 19, 2022, with week-long sessions in Montreal November 15-18, November 29-December 2 and December 12-15, 2022. Unifor’s national collective agreements with CN that cover the working conditions of more than 4,000 workers, expire on December 31, 2022. Two bargaining committees are involved, Council 4000 and Local 100. Local 100 represents locomotive and freight-car mechanics, electricians and apprentices. Council 4000 represents over 3,000 workers including workers at CN, Intermodal, CNTL and CN Savage Alberta Railway.

## CN Surpasses Grain Supply Chain Target Despite Extreme Cold Weather



Source: Railway Age

CN reported that it moved 10.9 million metric tons (MMT) of western Canadian bulk grain through week 19. This tonnage, the railroad says, is 7% higher versus the average of the prior three years, and 33% above last year. “The capacity of Canada’s grain supply chain varies through the crop year, and multiple factors place a real limit on the volume of grain that can move through the supply chain at any point in time,” CN said. “The maximum sustainable capacity of the grain supply chain is also a function of the capacity and operational efficiency of the individual pieces of that supply chain, from origin to destination. For week 19, CN reported that it planned 6,217 bulk hopper cars, representing more than 100% of the maximum end-to-end sustainable grain supply chain capacity. This total, the Class I says, is net of any orders cancelled by customers, after order placement in week 18 during week 19. According to CN, grain shipment week 19 saw extreme cold weather across some regions in western Canada and required “train lengths to be restricted to safely move traffic across the network.”

CN Surpasses Grain Supply Chain Target Despite Extreme Cold Weather, December 20, 2022, [www.cn.ca](http://www.cn.ca)

## Railway carloadings, October 2022



Source: Statistics Canada

In October 2022, the volume of cargo carried by Canadian railways totalled 32.8 million tonnes of freight, up slightly (+0.5%) from October 2021. Overall freight volume was just under the five-year average of 33.3 million tonnes for October, with a record-setting increase in carloadings of wheat offsetting large declines in several commodities, including coal and iron ore. To further explore current and historical data in an interactive format, please visit the "Monthly Railway Carloadings: Interactive Dashboard." 2022 October's small year-over-year increase in total freight carried was attributable to higher volumes of domestic loadings, both non-intermodal (mainly commodities) and intermodal (mainly containers). Domestic non-intermodal freight loadings increased year over year for the seventh straight month in October, up 3.8% to 26.5 million tonnes, resulting mainly from a large increase in grain shipments, notably wheat. Intermodal shipments originating from Canada—mainly containers—continued their growth for a fourth month, up 0.8% year over year to 3.2 million tonnes in October. In October 2022, freight traffic arriving from the United States fell year over year for the second consecutive month, down 21.4% to 3.1 million tonnes in October, the lowest monthly volume recorded since February 2021.

Railway carloadings, October 2022, December 21, 2022, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

## US/WORLD

## Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$686 Million in Grants to Modernize Older Transit Stations and Improve Accessibility Across the Country

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on December 19, 2022 announced 15 grants in nine states to help make it easier for people with disabilities and mobility needs to access some of the nation's oldest and busiest rail transit systems through essential upgrades, such as elevators. Funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the approximately \$686 million in grants represents the first round of funding from the new All Stations Accessibility Program, which is designed to improve the accessibility of transit rail stations so everyone, including those who use wheelchairs, push strollers, or cannot easily navigate stairs, can reliably access the rail systems in their communities.

*Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$686 Million in Grants to Modernize Older Transit Stations and Improve Accessibility Across the Country, December 19, 2022, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*

*Rail traffic for the week ending December 17, 2022, December 21, 2022, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com); and U.S. Carloads, Intermodal Down in Week 50, December 21, 2022, [www.railwayage.com](http://www.railwayage.com)*

## Rail traffic for the week ending December 17, 2022



Source: Railway Age

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) December 21, 2022 reported U.S. rail traffic for the week ending December 17, 2022. For this week, total U.S. weekly rail traffic was 476,232 carloads and intermodal units, down 5.5 percent compared with the same week last year. Total carloads for the week ending December 17, 2022 were 226,977 carloads, down 3.2 percent compared with the same week in 2021, while U.S. weekly intermodal volume was 249,255 containers and trailers, down 7.5 percent compared to 2021. Three of the 10 carload commodity groups posted an increase compared with the same week in 2021. Canadian railroads reported 81,774 carloads for the week, up 7.2 percent, and 64,345 intermodal units, down 2.2 percent compared with the same week in 2021. For the first 50 weeks of 2022, Canadian railroads reported cumulative rail traffic volume of 7,299,453 carloads, containers and trailers, down 0.4 percent.



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## Marine Transport Updates

### US/WORLD

#### Ports of LA, Long Beach to end Container Dwell Fee



Source: Cargo News

The San Pedro Bay ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles will phase out the option to collect a “Container Dwell Fee” on January 24, 2023. Since the program was announced on October 25, 2021, the two ports have seen a combined decline of 92% in aging cargo on the docks. While the executive directors of both ports have had the authority from their respective harbour commissions to implement the fee, it was never activated because cargo owners were able to clear their long-dwelling cargo off terminals. I said when we launched this program that I hoped we would never collect a dime because that would mean that containers were moving off our docks. And that’s exactly what occurred said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka, stating his gratefulness *“to the cargo owners and all our waterfront workers for all their successful efforts to improve the efficiency of our operations.”*

*Ports of LA, Long Beach to end Container Dwell Fee, December 20, 2022, [www.cargonews.com](http://www.cargonews.com)*

#### MSC Group completes acquisition of Bolloré Africa Logistics



Source: AJOT

MSC Group has confirmed that its wholly owned subsidiary SAS Shipping Agencies Services has completed the acquisition of Bolloré Africa Logistics. The transaction was approved by all applicable regulatory authorities. MSC’s acquisition of Bolloré Africa Logistics SAS and its affiliates (“Bolloré Africa Logistics Group”) highlights the long-term commitment of MSC to invest in African supply chains and infrastructure, supporting the needs of clients of both businesses. MSC reiterates that it will operate Bolloré Africa Logistics Group as an autonomous entity with its portfolio of diversified partners, under a new brand to be unveiled in 2023. Philippe Labonne will continue his longstanding role at the helm of the business as President of Bolloré Africa Logistics. MSC Group President Diego Aponte said: “We are delighted to welcome more than 21,000 new colleagues to the MSC family through our acquisition of Bolloré Africa Logistics. I wish to thank the Bolloré family, and Cyrille in particular, for having conducted the transaction in a smooth and efficient way and I congratulate them for having created such a well-established business.”

MSC Group completes acquisition of Bolloré Africa Logistics, December 21, 2022, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

## As ocean shipping grows, demand for logistics space at seaports booms

markets.” As ocean shipping grows, demand for logistics space at seaports booms. Among the 18 global ports examined, the top ports ranked by TEU volumes are shown in the chart above.

As ocean shipping grows, demand for logistics space at seaports booms, December 21, 2022, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)

Port	TEU Volume	Vacancy rate
Shanghai, China	47 million	8.5%
Singapore	37.5 million	2.1%
Los Angeles/Long Beach, Calif.	20 million	0.6%
Hong Kong, China	17.7 million	1.4%
Rotterdam, Netherlands	15.3 million	2.7%
Antwerp-Bruges, Belgium	12.03 million	0.5%
New York/New Jersey, N.Y.	9 million	2.8%
Hamburg, Germany*	8.7 million	--
Savannah, Ga.	5.5 million	0.7%
Melbourne, Australia	3.3 million	1.1%

\*The Port of Hamburg did not disclose a vacancy rate.

Source: AJOT

A 36.5% jump in international shipping container volumes over the past decade is driving strong demand for logistics space near seaports, according to the recent *CBRE Global Seaport Review*. The twin catalysts behind this increase are e-commerce sales growth and increased inventory holding to guard against supply chain disruptions. The industrial and logistics sector has seen historically high demand as companies expand their real estate footprints to keep up with e-commerce sales that have increased 133% over the last five years. It's anticipated that by 2026, 1.7 to 2.2 billion square feet of additional e-commerce-dedicated logistics space will be required to support internet sales. Companies are challenged to find warehouse and distribution space to meet growing demand while keeping shipping costs in check. The CBRE Supply Chain Advisory group estimates that transportation accounts for 45% to 70% of total logistics costs. Locating distribution facilities near seaports can help to lower transportation costs. Trade volumes are also growing rapidly amid an increasingly global consumer landscape. Seaports have evolved over the decades with the adoption of container shipping, the diversification of cargo types and equipment, better intermodal transportation of containers and advancements in port technologies. Today, global seaports distribute on a large scale, enabling shipping companies to take advantage of economies of scale and reduce costs. “A greater number of companies today are facing the enormous supply chain pressures generated by changing consumer behavior, economic uncertainty and a need to better insulate their manufacturing and distribution processes from interruptions,” said John Morris, CBRE President of Industrial & Logistics in the Americas. “As container shipping increases, so does the need for more logistics real estate, especially within seaport





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## Road Transport Updates

### CANADA



#### Express Mondor buys WJ Deans



Source: Inside Logistics

Express Mondor has bought W.J. Deans Transportation, making the new company one of Canada's largest flatbed trucking groups. This transaction, which unites the two Quebec-based companies, was carried out with support from National Bank Private Investment (NBPI) and Desjardins Capital, which will become equal minority shareholders of Express Mondor and its affiliated companies. "The specialized trucking industry remains fragmented and offers many opportunities for an organization like ours, with a recognized track record, a strong brand image, a solid financial base and a clear growth plan. The acquisition of a high-profile company like W.J. Deans Transportation, which already serves a number of U.S. states and major clients, will allow us to increase our presence across North America. I want to welcome the whole W.J. Deans Transportation team and thank them for trusting us. Together, we can go farther," said Éric Mondor, president and CEO of Express Mondor. Victoria and Valerie Deans will remain with the acquired business.

*Express Mondor acquires WJ Deans, December 19, 2022, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com); and Express Mondor buys WJ Deans, December 20, 2022, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)*



#### Government of Canada freezes toll rates for 2023 for the Confederation Bridge



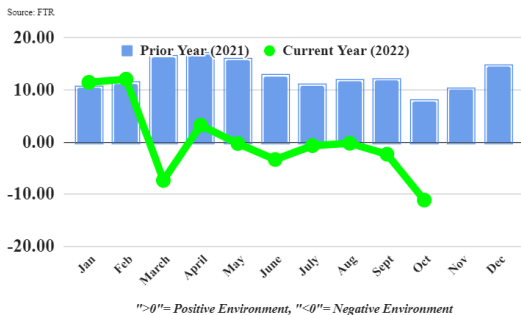
Source: Inside Logistics

The Confederation Bridge—the largest bridge in Canada—is an iconic and key asset for Prince Edward Island and its residents, providing a vital link between Islanders and the mainland. The Government of Canada understands the critical role the Confederation Bridge plays as an economic and social lifeline for the province of Prince Edward Island and the region. On December 19, 2022, the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra, announced that tolls for the Confederation Bridge will be frozen at current rates for 2023. The Bridge Operator, Strait Crossing Bridge Limited (SCBL), will receive funding from Transport Canada to avoid increases in tolls related to high inflation. Freezing tolls for 2023 on the Confederation Bridge will support Prince Edward Island residents and businesses who have

been hit hard by continued pandemic impacts, high inflation, and most recently Hurricane Fiona, especially during economic rebuilding and recovery.

Government of Canada freezes toll rates for 2023 for the Confederation Bridge, December 19, 2022, [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca); and Feds freeze Confederation Bridge toll rates for 2023, December 20, 2022, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)

## Fuel, financing cost hikes batter trucking companies in October



Source: Today's Trucking

Sharp increases in fuel and financing costs coupled with an unfavorable trend in freight rates resulted in a major deterioration of financial conditions for trucking companies during October. FTR's Trucking Conditions Index (TCI) fell to a -11.16 reading from the -2.35 reported in September. The October TCI was the weakest since the all-time low reading of -28.66 in April 2020. Avery Vise, FTR's vice-president of trucking, said, "We do not see a month on the horizon as difficult as October was for trucking companies, but nor do we expect much for carriers to get excited about. The rate environment looks to keep market conditions at least mildly negative into 2024.

*Fuel, financing cost hikes batter trucking companies in October, December 19, 2022, [www.todaystrucking.com](http://www.todaystrucking.com)*

## Urban public transit, October 2022



Source: Statistics Canada

In October 2022, ridership on Canada's urban transit networks continued to grow, reaching 117.3 million trips and recovering more than two-thirds (69.3%) of its level in October 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2022, total operating revenues (excluding subsidies) totalled \$276.1 million, an increase of 41.5% (+\$81.0 million) from October 2021. While this was the highest level recorded since March 2020, it was still below the level in October 2019 (-24.5%; -\$89.5 million), before the pandemic.

*Urban public transit, October 2022, December 20, 2022, [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)*

## FedEx profit tops estimates as higher prices offset decline in shipments

FedEx Corp. reported fiscal second-quarter earnings that beat analysts' estimates, lifted by price increases and cost cuts that helped make up for a decline in package volume. Shares of the delivery giant rose after the company announced an additional \$1 billion of projected savings in fiscal 2023, bringing the total to about \$3.7 billion. The stock gained 3.6% to \$170.25 in extended trading. It has dropped 36% this year. Earnings totaled \$3.18 a share excluding some items, the Memphis, Tennessee-based courier said on December 20, 2022 in a statement. Analysts had predicted \$2.80 a share on average. Sales for the quarter ended Nov. 30 were \$22.8 billion, below estimates of \$23.7 billion. FedEx is making "rapid progress on our ongoing transformation while navigating a weaker demand environment," Chief Executive Officer Raj Subramaniam said in the statement. "Our earnings exceeded our expectations in the second quarter driven by the execution and acceleration of our aggressive cost reduction plans." Investors had pared their expectations in September after FedEx pulled its annual forecast, posted earnings well below estimates and pledged to cut costs in the face of sagging volume. The decline in shipments was much quicker than FedEx anticipated, and the

company also struggled with service issues in Europe, Subramaniam said on a Sept. 22, 2022 conference call. For the year, FedEx announced a new target of adjusted earnings of \$13 to \$14 a share, excluding pension-fund fluctuations and expenses related to the cost-saving measures. Analysts were predicting adjusted profit of \$14.14 a share.

*FedEx profit tops estimates as higher prices offset decline in shipments, December 20, 2022, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*



Source: Inside Logistics

The United States Postal Service expects to acquire at least 66,000 battery electric delivery vehicles as part of its 106,000-vehicle acquisition plan for deliveries between now and 2028. The vehicles purchased as part of this anticipated plan will begin to replace the Postal Service's aging delivery fleet of over 220,000 vehicles. The Postal Service anticipates at least 60,000 Next Generation Delivery Vehicles (NGDV), of which at least 75% (45,000) will be battery electric. As part of this plan, a total of 21,000 additional commercial vehicles are also expected to be battery electric, depending on market availability and operational feasibility. Internal combustion vehicles will be purchased only to meet immediate vehicle replacement needs.

*USPS buying 66,000 electric vehicles, December 22, 2022, [www.insidelogistics.ca](http://www.insidelogistics.ca)*

## Quebec ELD enforcement delayed till June 1



Source: Today's Trucking

Quebec will begin enforcing the federal electronic logging device (ELD) mandate only on June 1, 2023, even as most of Canada begins applying the rules on Jan. 1 next year. Marc Cadieux, president and CEO, of the province's trucking association – Association du Camionnage du Quebec (ACQ), shared the news of delay with TruckNews.com after he and some of the largest carriers in the province held talks with Minister of Transport Geneviève Guilbault on Dec. 21. Cadieux said the minister said she did not want another postponement and would push ELD enforcement back to June 1.

*Quebec ELD enforcement delayed till June 1, December 21, 2022, [www.todaystrucking.ca](http://www.todaystrucking.ca)*

## US/WORLD

### USPS buying 66,000 electric vehicles



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## Other Transport Updates

### US/WORLD

#### **US extends tariff reprieve on some Chinese goods as review ongoing**



Source: AJOT

The US extended its reprieve on tariffs for some goods from China as the Biden administration reviews the need for the duties introduced by former President Donald Trump. The exclusions — due to expire at the of the year — will apply to 352 products and run through Sept. 30, the Office of the US Trade Representative said in a statement on December 16, 2022. The goods include pumps, compressors, air and water purifiers, valves and a variety of motors. Exemptions from the duties will lapse for 197 other products. The tariffs on Chinese goods are a holdover from Trump's aggressive actions against Beijing, and the Biden administration has kept them in place as leverage against what the US sees as its key strategic and economic rival. Tensions in the relationship between the world's two biggest economies eased since hitting a low point earlier this year following a visit to Taiwan by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. But efforts to stabilize ties were dealt a new blow this week, when China filed a dispute to the World Trade

Organization on Monday against US export-control measures on Chinese microchips. Trump first started imposing the duties on billions of dollars of imports using section 301 of the Trade Act in 2018, after an investigation concluded China stole intellectual property from American companies and forced them to transfer technology. US law states that the tariffs automatically expire four years after they were imposed, unless the USTR analyzes their effectiveness and consequences. President Joe Biden has been holding back on a decision to scrap any of the tariffs, which span imports from industrial inputs — such as microchips and chemicals — to consumer merchandise including apparel and furniture.

*US extends tariff reprieve on some Chinese goods as review ongoing, December 17, 2022, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*

#### **Christmas shopping week rocked by UK's railway strikes**

British retailers have been hit by a sharp drop in customers during the peak period for Christmas sales, as shoppers stayed at home amid widespread rail strikes. Unions staged walkouts across much of the UK's train network on Tuesday and Wednesday, with another 48-hour protest beginning on December 16, 2022. They are demanding higher pay and resisting changes to working practices. Footfall at UK retail destinations dropped 7.5% this week, according to data provider Springboard. In previous years the equivalent weeks have seen footfall rise by an average of 8.5% as Britons rush to buy last-minute gifts. Shops in town and city centers have been worst affected, down 14% due to fewer people traveling in by train. Retail parks were up, by 0.3%, as people chose to drive instead of taking public transport. Shopping centers, which provide some respite from the freezing weather, were also less affected, down just 1.5%. Central London suffered by far the sharpest drop in shoppers as swathes of the capital's office staff worked from home. Footfall was down 25%, and close to 30% lower in areas specifically close to London's offices.

Retailers have also been affected by the Royal Mail strike, which means some presents will not be delivered in time for Christmas.  
*Christmas shopping week rocked by UK's railway strikes, December 16, 2022, [www.ajot.com](http://www.ajot.com)*

### **Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$274 Million in Funding for 12 Projects to Improve and Expand Transportation Infrastructure in Rural Areas**

On December 21, 2022, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that the Biden-Harris Administration has awarded \$273.9 million from the new Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (Rural) to help communities around the United States complete transportation projects that will increase connectivity, improve safety and reliability, support regional economic growth, and improve the quality of life for people living in rural areas.

*Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \$274 Million in Funding for 12 Projects to Improve and Expand Transportation Infrastructure in Rural Areas, December 21, 2022, [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)*



**The Chartered  
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### Job Postings

#### \* **Manager, Service Planning – Long Beach Transit (Long Beach, California)**

The position of Service Planning Manager is responsible for managing the activities of the Service Planning Department and directly supervises the personnel within the Service Planning Department. The Service Planning Manager ensures that Long Beach Transit Fixed Route services are designed to achieve customer satisfaction and to support overall community development and growth. The Service Planning Manager monitors the service performance, develops long and short-range transit plans and programs to optimize transit services and ensures that service is in compliance with local, state, and federal mandates.

#### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following:**

- Manages and prioritizes service development staff activities to achieve company standards, and business plan objectives
- Oversees the development and production of schedules; ensures that run cutting, scheduling and the operator general bid process is efficient and productive
- Develops department budget including preparation of the annual capital budget
- Provides appropriate data for projecting annual service hours and miles for operating budget
- Actively participates in strategic business planning process
- Develops new and innovative service concepts that continuously improve the quality of Long Beach Transit services and the communities we serve
- Coordinates all service quality issues and works with other transit systems, developers, city/county agencies, and the community in the development of new transportation services
- Provides data to appropriate departments in the preparation of Short- and Long-Range funding marks for annual budget process

- Oversees the development of the Short-Range Transit Plan, National Transportation Data Base, State Transit Performance Measures, Title VI, and other statistical reporting and operational analyses
- Participates in the development of operational policies and procedures for company services.
- Communicates and implements safety rules, polices, and procedures in support of the agency's safety vision and goals; and maintains accountability for the safety performance of all subordinate employees
- Develops scopes of work for contracts, resolves legal, contractual, and technical issues
- Directs the technical monitoring, analysis, and evaluation of analytical, quantitative, and statistical methods and tools
- Represents LBT before various public, private, and government audiences

#### **EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:**

A bachelor's degree in urban planning, transportation, public administration, or other transportation or management related field, and five (5) years of progressively responsible public transit experience that would demonstrate the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to manage a transportation service development department is required. Experience in service development, project management, and/or planning preferred.

Upon Request, a Driving Record printout is required with application (must be current within the 30 days of the printout).

Salary Range: \$101,241 - \$118,958 (Depending on Qualifications)

#### **Application**

Apply online at [www.ridelbt.com/careers](http://www.ridelbt.com/careers). Online applications must include past work history and be fully completed to be considered. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a complete online application.

Candidate must be eligible to work in the United States. Long Beach Transit does not sponsor H-1B or other related work visas. COVID-19 Vaccine Required.

### **\* President and CEO (Subsidiary of VIA's TGF) - Quebec, Canada**

The Government of Canada is committed to transforming how people move and live in Canada's busiest region, the Toronto to Quebec City corridor. High Frequency Rail (HFR) is a once in a generation project that will transform passenger rail service in Canada through the creation of a faster, more frequent, more reliable rail service in this corridor. Through a novel procurement approach (i.e., co-development of the project with a private developer), the HFR project will leverage world-class expertise and private sector innovation early in the project. HFR will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve accessibility, increase integration with communities by servicing new cities such as Peterborough and Trois-Rivières and local connectivity through access to other modes of transportation, and contribute to the Government's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

HFR also promises a better future for workers in the passenger rail sector by modernizing, enhancing and greatly expanding service, creating new job opportunities for current and future employees. VIA Rail, its unions and its employees are critical to the success and advancement of the HFR project. VIA Rail is a key partner in the project by providing all necessary support and operational expertise in the delivery of the project and will continue to play a key role across Canada as our national passenger rail provider.

As such, VIA Rail Canada Inc. has been authorized by the Governor in Council to incorporate a wholly-owned subsidiary "VIA-HFR" in accordance with the Canada Business Corporations Act.

VIA HFR will be independent, with the mandate to develop and implement HFR in Ontario and Quebec by developing one or more agreements with the private sector on behalf of the Minister of Transport. It will have its own authorities and resources to deliver the project, as well as a distinct reporting and accountability structure through the Minister to Parliament. VIA-HFR's head office will be located in Montreal.

VIA-HFR is looking for its inaugural Chief Executive Officer (CEO), to lead this new organization in the development of the HFR project. The new CEO who will report to the VIA-HFR Board of directors will be responsible for three principal objectives: 1) establishing the new

organization, 2) establishing the skill sets required for the organization to function as the project management office, and 3) undertake the management of the project with the private sector partner to be chosen by the Government of Canada. At this time, the Government of Canada has launched a competitive procurement process and will lead the selection of the Private Developer Partner, with the support of VIA-HFR who will be instrumental in developing the project and readying it for a final investment decision by the Government of Canada.

As the ideal Chief Executive Officer candidate, you have excelled as a senior executive and have in-depth experience leading organizations and major transportation infrastructure projects within complex multi-stakeholder environments. This has developed your business acumen, along with the operational know-how, to oversee the establishment of the new corporation. As an experienced C-suite executive, you are an inspiring leader and are known for your strategic thinking, your ability to create and translate a vision to action, building high-performing teams, and welcoming and encouraging diverse thought perspectives.

You are a skilled communicator and relationship builder, which is especially evident given your experience working with Indigenous groups and communities.

Your background and experience bring credibility, as well as technical and operational knowledge of the transportation industry, including rail and other related sectors. You also possess an understanding of all aspects of large public infrastructure projects, including acquisition, procurement, P3s, and project management.

You have extensive delivery experience in at least two of the three areas: 1) very large capital investments or infrastructure projects, 2) complex procurement processes, or 3) passenger transportation. As someone known to have worked on sustainable projects, you are well acquainted with environmental impact assessments. You have outstanding communication skills, can operate in both official languages, and appreciate the importance of public affairs.

Click here to apply: <https://boyden.thriveapp.ly/job/1746>

### **\* The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) headquarters' Office of Freight Management and Operations (HOFM) is growing!**

This Office implements FHWA's freight program and also provides support across many program areas in the US Department of Transportation. HOFM is currently seeking applications for three Transportation Specialists.

## Positions include:

**Freight Transportation Specialist (GS-2101-13/14)** - This person is responsible for overseeing and administering various national freight transportation programs relating to highways and trucking and will serve as a national advisor in providing direction and guidance to FHWA Divisions, States, and other stakeholder. The position is located in the FHWA Headquarters Office of Operations in Washington, DC.

**Freight Transportation Specialist (GS-2101-13/14)** - This person is responsible for overseeing and administering the National Highway Freight Program, a national Federal Aid program to the States as well as other freight transportation programs. This person provides direction and guidance to FHWA Divisions, States, and other stakeholders. The position is located in the FHWA Headquarters Office of Operations in Washington, DC.

**Truck Size and Weight Specialist (GS-2101-13)** - This person is responsible for overseeing and administering the Federal Truck Size and Weight regulations and serves as a national advisor in providing direction and guidance to FHWA Divisions, States, the freight industry, and other stakeholders. The Truck Size and Weight Transportation Specialist is a full-time remote work position.

## How to Apply:

We are using the Direct Hire authority to fill this vacancy and will be looking at applications and resumes for this position submitted by December 16, 2022. To apply, prepare a resume describing your work experience applicable to the primary duties and responsibilities of the positions for which you would like to be considered, send your resume directly to [Caitlin.Hughes@dot.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Hughes@dot.gov) and [Jeffrey.Purdy@dot.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Purdy@dot.gov) and refer to the position title in the subject line.

You may also complete an application at USA Jobs under <https://lnkd.in/eMr5PTY9> for Transportation Specialist - Direct Hire (FHWA.BIL-2023-0001). If you have already entered an application in USAJobs, please send an email to Caitlin and Jeff indicating your interest in being considered.

## \* Principal Planner: Freight Planning, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Under the direction of the Director of Freight Planning, the Principal Planner: Freight Planning will be responsible for performing a full range of technical planning, research, analysis, written reports, and outreach

activities in the specialized field of freight and goods movement planning. The job requires knowledge of goods movement, the application of tools of analysis, the ability to research freight and related topics and produce reports, as well as the ability of effectively engage and interact with stakeholders in the public and private sector. To apply, please click here:

<https://njit.csod.com/ux/ats/careersite/1/home/requisition/4582?c=njit>

## \* Postdoctoral Scholar in Sustainable Freight Transportation Technologies

The College of Engineering – Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) at the University of California, Riverside, is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral scholar to join our Transportation Systems Research (TSR) group in conducting research related to sustainable freight transportation technologies. Candidates with knowledge and research experience in freight travel demand modeling, vehicle scheduling and routing, vehicle energy and emissions modeling, geospatial data analysis, advanced optimization, machine learning, and high-performance computing, are encouraged to apply.

The TSR group consists of a multidisciplinary team of more than 20 faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, and staff engineers. We conduct research in the areas of advanced vehicles and intelligent transportation systems with a focus on developing and evaluating technologies that improve the travel and energy efficiencies as well as reduce the environmental impact of transportation activities. Several recent and current research projects involve the development

of novel sustainable freight transportation technologies, all the way from conceptualization to design, simulation, prototyping, and real-world demonstration.

Specific activities of the successful candidate may include:

- Develop new vehicle scheduling and routing techniques and evaluate their effectiveness
- Model energy, emissions, and air quality impacts of freight movement
- Conduct field testing of new vehicle scheduling and routing techniques
- Perform mining, analysis, visualization, and interpretation of vehicle activity big data
- Assist in producing high-quality publications, reports, and research proposals
- Support additional related research projects as needed



Please click here to view the view description and qualifications:

[https://www.cert.ucr.edu/sites/g/files/rcwecm1251/files/2021-10/2021\\_TSR%20postdoc%20position\\_2021.10.27.pdf](https://www.cert.ucr.edu/sites/g/files/rcwecm1251/files/2021-10/2021_TSR%20postdoc%20position_2021.10.27.pdf)

Those interested should send their curriculum vitae and a cover letter to [certjobs@cert.ucr.edu](mailto:certjobs@cert.ucr.edu) with the subject "TSR Postdoc Position". In the cover letter, please provide a statement of research interests and experience.

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If you need assistance with creating your account or joining, please contact Rebecca Whelan at [admin@ciltna.com](mailto:admin@ciltna.com)