



Passenger Rail Forum **Program**

November 22, 2024
BMO Centre
Calgary, Alberta

Alberta 



Alberta's economy and population are growing rapidly, placing increased demands on its transportation networks. Passenger rail could provide Albertans with additional transportation choices that alleviate pressures on highways.

While establishing passenger rail services involves careful planning and significant investment, it presents an exciting opportunity to shape the future of transportation in Alberta, and can more broadly benefit the economy, environment, quality of life, and more. This can help make Alberta more competitive, dynamic, connected, and sustainable.

On April 29, 2024, Premier Danielle Smith and Minister Devin Dreeshen announced an ambitious vision for advancing passenger rail as part of an integrated provincial transportation system in Alberta with the development of a Passenger Rail Master Plan. This announcement followed Minister Dreeshen's July 2023 Mandate Letter and the October 2023 Throne Speech prioritizing the exploration of feasibility and implementation of passenger rail services in Alberta. In June 2024, a procurement process was initiated for the development of a comprehensive Passenger Rail Master Plan, generating significant interest from industry and Albertans.



The Vision

The government's vision is for an Alberta passenger rail system that includes public, private, or hybrid passenger rail, including:

A commuter rail system for the Calgary area that connects surrounding communities and the Calgary International Airport to downtown;

A commuter rail system for the Edmonton area that connects surrounding communities and the Edmonton International Airport to downtown;

A regional rail line between Calgary and Edmonton, with a local transit hub in Red Deer;

Regional rail lines between our major cities (i.e., Calgary and Edmonton) and the Rocky Mountain parks;

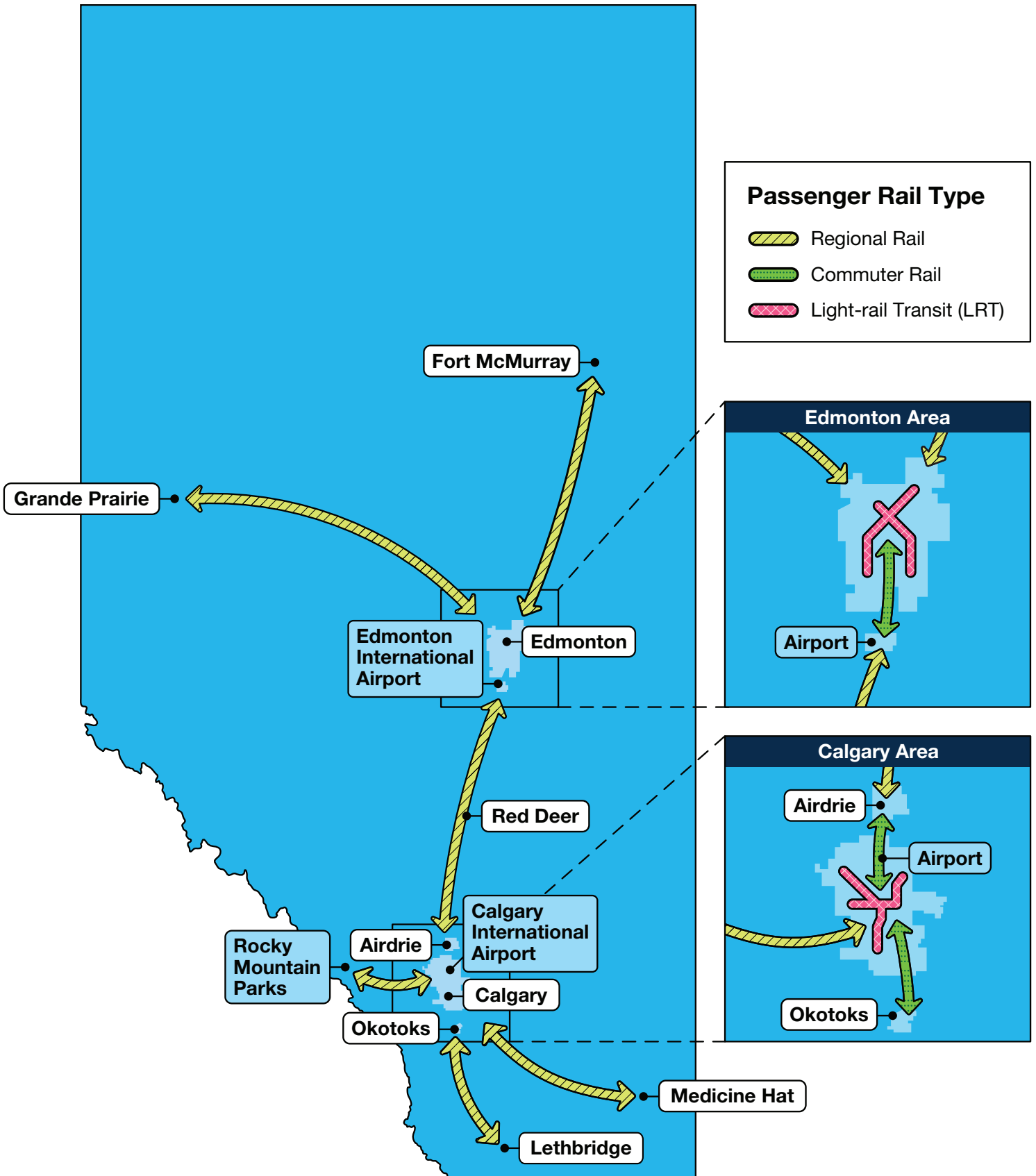
Municipal-led Light Rail Transit (LRT) systems in Calgary and Edmonton that integrate with the provincial passenger rail system; and

Multi-modal hubs serving the major cities that would provide linkages between a commuter rail system, regional rail routes, and municipal-led mass transit systems.

The vision also includes a province-led "Metrolinx-like" Crown corporation with a mandate to develop the infrastructure and oversee daily operations, fare collection/booking system, system maintenance, and planning for future system expansion.

This vision for an Alberta passenger rail system will be further informed through the Passenger Rail Master Plan and subsequent government decisions.

Passenger Rail Map





Looking ahead

Alberta’s Passenger Rail Master Plan will look forward decades and identify concrete actions that can be taken now, as well as in the future, to build the optimal passenger rail system for the province.

The Passenger Rail Master Plan will include:



A comprehensive feasibility assessment that identifies what elements of a passenger rail system should proceed, in what sequence, and based on what conditions;



Financial and delivery model options that consider private, public, or hybrid options;



Options to ensure the effective governance and operations of Alberta’s passenger rail system; and



Engagement of Albertans and interested stakeholders.

Project timeline

Work on the Master Plan has recently begun and is following the below timeline.

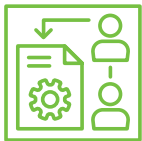
Premier and Minister Unveil Vision April	Consultant Work Begins August	Passenger Rail Forum and Public Survey Launch November	Public and Indigenous Engagement Late 2024 and 2025	Completed Passenger Rail Master Plan Summer
2024			2025	

Master Plan FAQs



What is the Passenger Rail Master Plan?

Alberta's government is developing a long-term Passenger Rail Master Plan, considering future population growth and exploring hydrogen-powered trains. This plan aims to create an optimal passenger rail system for the province, engage stakeholders, and clarify roles for both public and private sectors.



What will the Passenger Rail Master Plan involve?

The project will conduct a thorough feasibility assessment to determine the ideal components and sequencing of a passenger rail system. It will explore various financial and delivery models, address governance and operational aspects, engage stakeholders, and ultimately present the government with a 15-Year Delivery Plan.



Why is Alberta doing a Passenger Rail Master Plan?

Alberta's rapid population growth necessitates improved connectivity. A Passenger Rail Master Plan is being developed to address this need by creating a passenger rail system for the future. This plan will consider various delivery options, including public, private, or hybrid models, to ensure the province's growing population remains connected and the future of how Albertans live, work, and play is shaped effectively.



When will the Passenger Rail Master Plan be completed?

The Master Plan and its 15-Year Delivery Plan are expected to be completed by summer 2025, with the goal of informing Cabinet decisions in fall 2025 for Alberta's 2026 Budget and future budgets.



When will passenger rail service be implemented?

This project is still in the feasibility phase. Should the government chose to move forward with passenger rail service, more decisions would be necessary. As such, processes and any timelines have yet to be determined.

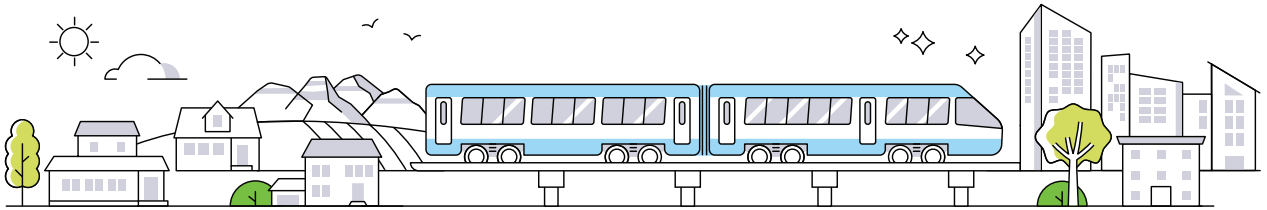


How will the government ensure this plan meets the needs of Albertans?

Over the next nine months, the Government of Alberta will engage Albertans and work with municipalities, Indigenous communities and organizations, the private sector, and other interested stakeholders. As a Passenger Rail Master Plan is developed for the province, a key consideration will be to understand the passenger rail system Albertans envision.

Forum

Agenda



Welcome and Opening Prayer

Emcee Andre Corbould and Elder Clarence Wolfleg Sr.

Alstom's Coradia iLint: a hydrogen-powered passenger train pilot project

Ian Hodkinson, Director, Business Development, Technical, Alstom

California High Speed Rail: the early years, what was done to plan for and enable high-speed rail in California

Chad R. Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary for Rail and Transit, California State Transportation Agency

Insights on state rail planning from California and Deutsche Bahn North America

- Michael Cornfield, Principal, DB E.C.O. North America
- Yasmin Ara, Manager of Consulting, DB E.C.O. North America
- Chad R. Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary for Rail and Transit, California State Transportation Agency
- Facilitator: Adrian Lightstone, Senior Vice President, CPCS

Government's Vision for Passenger Rail

Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta

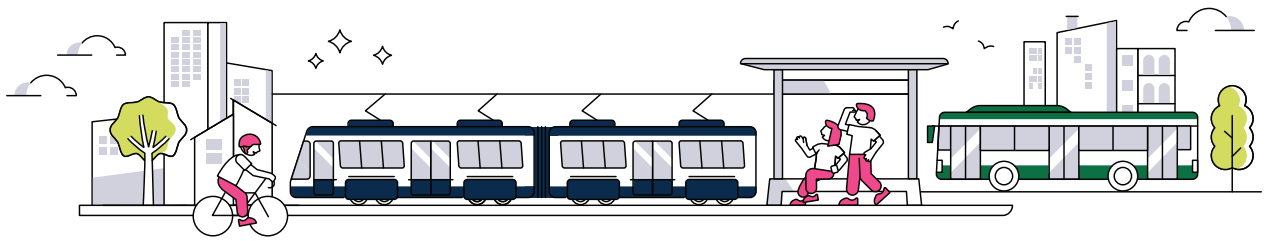
Overview of Passenger Rail Mandate and Master Plan

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

Fireside chat

Metrolinx: Key lessons in establishing a passenger rail agency

Phil Verster, President and CEO, Metrolinx (virtual)



Réseau express métropolitain (REM): lessons learned and best practices in setting up a passenger rail agency

Daniel Farina, General Manager CDPQ Infra—Réseau express métropolitain

International perspectives: lessons learned from Renfe Group's long-term operations in Spain and international expansions

Armando Fombella Cuesta, General Manager, Renfe KSA/Renfe Group

International perspectives: lessons learned from FS Group's long-term operations in Italy and international expansions

Marco Stegher, Area Manager Americas, Italferr SpA
(Ferrovie dello Stato—Italian Railways)

International perspectives: lessons learned from Central Japan Railway Company's (JR Central) long-term operations in Japan and international expansions

Keiichi Kagayama, Corporate Officer, Chief General Manager,
Consulting and Coordination Office, Central Japan Railway Company
(JR Central)

In-depth: Alberta's Passenger Rail Master Plan

Bryce Stewart, Deputy Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

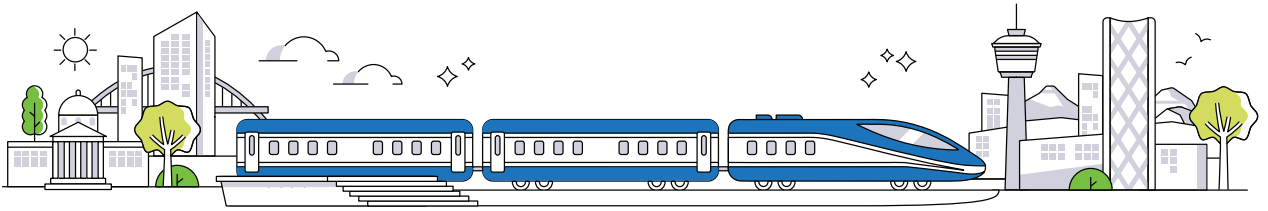
Breakout sessions:

Community transportation challenges and future transit solutions

- Russ Watts, Engineering Services Manager, Red Deer
- Bruce Ferguson, Branch Manager, LRT Expansion and Renewal, Edmonton
- Michael Thompson, General Manager, Infrastructure Services, Calgary
- Facilitator: Ethan Bayne, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Assessment and Grants Division, Municipal Affairs

Case studies on planning, design, construction, and other technical aspects

- Martin Gallagher, Chief Operating and Safety Officer, Metrolinx
 - Marc-Olivier Ranger, Chief Strategic Policy & Partnerships Officer, VIA HFR
 - Facilitator: Maggie Walsh, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Growth, Transportation Business Group, HDR
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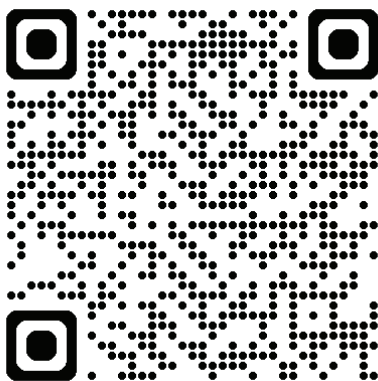
Breakout sessions:

Alberta passenger rail proponents and advocates

- Paul Bassi, Prairie Link HSR
- Adam Waterous, Chairman, Liricon Capital
- Sebastien Gendron, Co-Founder and CEO, TransPod Inc.
- Thomas Fryer, Director, Alberta Regional Rail Inc.
- Callum Hanton, Founder and CEO, Chinook Propulsion Technologies
- Facilitator: Justin Simaluk, President, Rail for Alberta Society

Best practices in passenger rail procurement, risk management, and risk transfer

- John Allen, Vice President, Executive Director, Future of Infrastructure Group
- Arsalan Zargar, Executive Vice President, Project Delivery, Transportation, Infrastructure Ontario
- Terry Burgis, Senior Vice President, Kiewit Development Company
- Facilitator: Jillian Beaton, Partner, EY LLP



For more information on the Passenger Rail Master Plan, visit [Alberta.ca/passenger-rail](https://alberta.ca/passenger-rail) or contact us at passengerrail@gov.ab.ca.

