

The Conference Board of Canada  
Insights You Can Count On



# CENTRE FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Engaging and Developing Canadian Leaders

## EXECUTIVE NETWORKS

# CENTRE FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Transportation networks are the fabric that supports regional and national competitiveness. They are a key factor in the success of labour markets, which depend on the efficient and effective operation of road and public transit networks. In addition, they facilitate the flow of goods and allow businesses to operate more efficiently and effectively.

The Centre for Transportation Infrastructure (CTI) promotes the development, maintenance, and efficient operation of transportation networks. It brings together business and government leaders to discuss critical issues—ranging from the challenge of financing transportation investments to the efficient and sustainable use of new and existing capacity. CTI also provides a platform for in-depth research to shed light on these issues.

## Key Objectives

- Guide public policy and private sector decisions regarding the development, maintenance, and efficient operation of transportation networks.
- Support independent research and provide a foundation for informed decisions about critical transportation infrastructure issues.

## EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- The opportunity to network with leading practitioners and decision-makers from the public and private transportation sector, its customers, and suppliers; and to learn from each other, test ideas, and benchmark current practices in Canada and abroad.
- The opportunity to support and review rigorous and balanced research on major issues related to the development, maintenance, and efficient operation of transportation services and infrastructure.
- Access to a forum for frank dialogue with business and government representatives.
- Participation in dialogue aimed at improving the quality of policy-making and decision-making with respect to major transportation services as well as developing measures that can be applied to track progress toward more efficient and effective transportation networks.
- Advanced access to detailed findings of the Centre's research with the opportunity to review before they are released to the public.
- Access to the members-only website featuring a list of individual members, event calendars, meeting summaries, presentations, research plans, and other resources.

## Who Should Join

The Centre for Transportation Infrastructure is for leaders from resource-based and manufacturing industries and other users of transportation services; transportation infrastructure operators, transit agencies, and engineering and construction firms, which provide the services or the transportation infrastructure; and governments, regional transit agencies, and financial institutions, which provide the policy framework and funding.

## Member Organizations

Aéroports de Montréal Inc.  
Bombardier Transport Canada Inc.  
Calyx Transportation Group Inc.  
Canadian National Railway Company  
Canadian Pacific Railway  
Dessau Inc.  
Greater Toronto Airports Authority  
Metrolinx  
Ministère des Transports du Québec  
Montreal Port Authority  
Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure  
Ontario Ministry of Transportation  
Transport Canada

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## Key Challenges and Opportunities

Many parts of Canada's transportation network have suffered from under-investment in the last 25 years, including roads, bridges, and urban transit networks. This has led to the development of transportation bottlenecks that constrain productivity. Bottlenecks cause congestion and delays for passenger and freight services, which lead to higher transportation costs and environmental degradation.

Yet, money alone cannot ensure that we have high-performing transportation networks that effectively support economic growth and higher standards of living. Four sets of issues arise in developing and maintaining transportation infrastructure:

**Financing**—The most immediate challenge is to determine the best ways of financing transportation infrastructure requirements; in particular, how to attract private funding for infrastructure projects, and on which terms.

**Prioritizing**—A second, related challenge is how to prioritize infrastructure projects. For example, when is an urban transit investment a higher priority than a highway upgrade?

**Assessing**—When prioritizing projects, each project needs to be assessed objectively. What is the best way to quantify the economic, social, and environmental impacts of each project over its expected lifetime?

**Decision-making**—A fourth challenge is to create effective policy, regulatory, and organizational frameworks. They must be structured in a way that encourages effective decision-making at strategic and operational levels and supports effective management of the services provided by infrastructure operators. Innovative governance solutions may be especially important for urban transit systems that, unlike other transport modes, have seen a decrease in productivity over the past couple of decades. And, in particular, for modes competing at a global level (such as air and water transportation), effective policy needs to consider international developments.

The Centre for Transportation Infrastructure aims to address these challenges and find the best solutions for developing, maintaining, and operating transportation networks. CTI's scope of work covers all types of transportation assets—including roads, highways, bridges, transit systems, ports, airports, and railways.

## Upcoming Meeting Themes 2012 and 2013

2012

- Secondary costs of regulation in commercial transportation
- Future of transport governance and service delivery models in Canada

2013

- Setting the agenda for the upcoming *Canada Transportation Act* Review
- Setting the agenda for the upcoming *Canada Transportation Act* Review II



*“CTI holds inspiring meetings that give special opportunity for open discussions on major transportation issues through various angles.”*

Sophie Morin, chef, Service de la planification stratégique et des affaires économiques, Direction des affaires corporatives, Ministère des Transports du Québec

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DECEMBER 2011

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