Public group asks for a study on planned Canada train closure

140317

Marcy Misner/Amy

**Train follow—VOICER--**

(length :41)

With less than a month left until the train stops running, a working group in Canada is asking for an impact study.

Marcy Misner reports

The group is hoping to find alternatives to a planned closure of a popular railway used by many to reach Northern Ontario.

Now they’ve asked the Canadian government for a one-year extension of the planned closure, in order for an economic impact study to be completed.

The city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario has agreed to commit up to $50,000 to the overall project, as long as there are others helping as well.

Other stakeholders in the nearly 300-mile rail line are agreeing to kick in money to help cover costs including a parttime staffer and the impact analysis.

Transport Canada announced in January it is cancelling funding for the Algoma Central Railway on March 31.

SOQ

WEB VERSION

With less than a month left until the train stops running, a working group in Canada is asking for an impact study.

The group is hoping to find alternatives to a planned closure of a popular railway used by many to reach Northern Ontario.

BDO accountants have been retained by the working group to conduct the economic impact study. CAO Joe Fratesi, who is chair of the working group, has asked the government for a one-year extension in order for the study to be completed. He’s hopeful they’ll grant it.

The city of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario has agreed to commit up to $50,000 to the overall project, as long as there are others helping as well.

Other stakeholders in the nearly 300-mile rail line are agreeing to kick in money to help cover costs including a part-time staffer and the impact analysis.

Transport Canada announced in January it is cancelling funding for the Algoma Central Railway on March 31. CN Rail did agree to continue operating the passenger service, which runs from Sault Ste. Marie to Hearst, Ontario, until April 29.

The closure has prompted a strong reaction from those who use the Algoma Central Railway. Hundreds of residents, business owners, First Nation, recreational outfitters, tourists, trappers and cabin owners will be stranded with no way other than logging roads to reach towns and cabins between Sault Ste. Marie and Hearst, Ontario.

The Canadian government has said there are alternate ways that those who wish to travel the 296 miles northward could take instead – a claim many say is false.