

# The Windsor Connector

**Chicago > Ann Arbor > Dearborn > Detroit > Windsor > Toronto**

## **Amtrak > Windsor Connector > VIA Rail**

Fills the gap between Amtrak trains from Chicago to Ann Arbor / Dearborn / Detroit and VIA Rail Canada trains from Windsor to Toronto using modern motor coaches. Return trips would also be provided.

Based upon the successful AirRide service between Ann Arbor and Metro Airport, applying the same type of service to train travel.

Early morning shuttle bus departure from Ann Arbor to Windsor, Ontario to connect with the mid-morning VIA Rail train to Toronto with an early afternoon arrival in Toronto. Also, a late morning shuttle departure from Ann Arbor with a late afternoon VIA arrival in Toronto.

Late afternoon VIA Rail departure from Toronto to Windsor with late evening arrival of *The Windsor Connector* motor coach in Ann Arbor.

Mid-day motor coach connections between Detroit and Windsor using Amtrak and VIA Rail trains to travel between Ann Arbor and Toronto and the reverse.

A group of Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan residents has worked on *The Windsor Connector* proposal for the past two years. Our idea is simple: Ann Arbor is located about half-way between Chicago and Toronto. While it is connected well to Chicago by direct Amtrak train service (three roundtrips per day), the connection to Toronto is much poorer. Even though VIA Rail Canada runs four roundtrips per day to Toronto, the end point of this rail service is Windsor, Ontario, across the river and out of the way from most activity and population centers in Southeast Michigan.

To improve the current situation, our group has proposed *The Windsor Connector* – a dedicated shuttle bus service connecting Ann Arbor and several points in the Detroit Metro area to VIA Rail trains in Windsor. Eastbound, such a dedicated motor coach would arrive a reasonable time (30 minutes) before VIA train departures. Westbound, this *Connector* bus would wait for late trains, departing the Windsor station promptly after the train's arrival. Ann Arbor is proposed to be the western terminus for this service, as it is the busiest Amtrak station in Michigan.

We now have a website that describes this program in greater detail, including a route map and a suggested timetable: [windsorlink.livejournal.com](http://windsorlink.livejournal.com). You are encouraged to read our proposal.

# Proposed Windsor Connector Timetable

## Key to reading the timetable:

BLACK = existing Amtrak and VIA Rail trains (**no** changes to current rail schedules)

BLUE = proposed Windsor Connector bus trips

**BOLD** = guaranteed train-bus and bus-train connections at Windsor and Detroit

Despite short connection times, westbound buses **wait** for late VIA Rail trains at Windsor.

All proposed bus stops are shown, but many intermediate train stops are omitted for clarity.

All services are **daily**, except as noted at the bottom of each timetable.

All times are in the 24-hours format and on Eastern Time, except Chicago (which is on Central Time).

### Eastbound: Chicago > Ann Arbor > Detroit > Windsor > Toronto

| station                  | train or bus |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |       |       |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------|
|                          | 70*          | bus          | 72           | bus          | 76           | 350          | bus          | 78           | 352   | 354   |
| Chicago, IL (Union)      | —            | —            | —            | —            | —            | 07:20        | —            | —            | 13:25 | 17:50 |
| Battle Creek, MI         | —            | —            | —            | —            | —            | 11:13        | —            | —            | 17:02 | 21:24 |
| Ann Arbor, MI            | —            | 06:20        | —            | 11:00        | —            | 12:48        | —            | —            | 18:34 | 22:57 |
| Dearborn, MI             | —            | 07:03        | —            | 11:43        | —            | 13:17        | —            | —            | 19:08 | 23:26 |
| Detroit, MI (Amtrak)     | —            | 07:29        | —            | 12:09        | —            | <b>13:40</b> | <b>14:55</b> | —            | 19:33 | 23:54 |
| Detroit, MI (Rosa Parks) | —            | 07:44        | —            | 12:24        | —            | —            | 15:10        | —            | —     | —     |
| Windsor, ON (VIA)        | 05:30        | <b>08:44</b> | <b>09:05</b> | <b>13:24</b> | <b>13:45</b> | —            | <b>16:10</b> | <b>17:45</b> | —     | —     |
| London, ON               | 07:20        | —            | 10:56        | —            | 15:37        | —            | —            | 19:36        | —     | —     |
| Aldershot, ON            | 09:21        | —            | 12:34        | —            | 17:13        | —            | —            | 21:15        | —     | —     |
| Toronto, ON (Union)      | 10:04        | —            | 13:11        | —            | 17:52        | —            | —            | 21:51        | —     | —     |

(\*) VIA Rail train 70 operates daily except Sundays.

### Westbound: Toronto > Windsor > Detroit > Ann Arbor > Chicago

| station                  | train or bus |       |       |              |              |              |              |              |       |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
|                          | 351          | 353   | 71    | 73           | bus          | 355          | 75           | bus          | 79*   |
| Toronto, ON (Union)      | —            | —     | 06:45 | 12:15        | —            | —            | 17:30        | —            | 19:45 |
| Aldershot, ON            | —            | —     | 07:25 | 12:58        | —            | —            | 18:12        | —            | 20:23 |
| London, ON               | —            | —     | 09:05 | 14:30        | —            | —            | 20:01        | —            | 21:57 |
| Windsor, ON (VIA)        | —            | —     | 11:02 | <b>16:30</b> | <b>16:40</b> | —            | <b>21:56</b> | <b>22:06</b> | 23:44 |
| Detroit, MI (Rosa Parks) | —            | —     | —     | —            | 17:40        | —            | —            | 23:06        | —     |
| Detroit, MI (Amtrak)     | 06:33        | 10:45 | —     | —            | <b>17:55</b> | <b>18:18</b> | —            | 23:21        | —     |
| Dearborn, MI             | 06:51        | 11:03 | —     | —            | —            | 18:36        | —            | 23:47        | —     |
| Ann Arbor, MI            | 07:20        | 11:32 | —     | —            | —            | 19:06        | —            | 00:30        | —     |
| Battle Creek, MI         | 08:51        | 13:07 | —     | —            | —            | 20:36        | —            | —            | —     |
| Chicago, IL (Union)      | 10:32        | 15:05 | —     | —            | —            | 22:40        | —            | —            | —     |

(\*) VIA Rail train 79 operates daily except Saturdays.