

Canada assisting U.S. in deportation process

Anna Mehler Paperny
REUTERS

TORONTO – Canada is working with the United States to “deal with” countries reluctant to accept deportees as both nations increase efforts to ship migrants back to their home countries, according to a government document seen by Reuters.

Since President Donald Trump began his second term in January, the United States has cracked down on migrants in the country illegally. But the United States has at times struggled to remove people as quickly as it would like in part because of countries’ unwillingness to accept them.

As Canada has increased deportations, which reached a decade-high last year, it has also run up against countries reluctant to accept deportees. Canadian officials issued a single-use travel document in June to a Somali man they wanted to deport because Somalia would not provide him with travel documents.

In a redacted message to an unknown recipient, cited in a Feb. 28 email, the director general of international affairs for Canada’s Immigration Department wrote, “Canada will also continue working with the United States to deal with countries recalcitrant on removals to better enable both Canada and the United States to return foreign nationals to their home countries.”

The department referred questions about the message to the Canada Border Services Agency, which declined to specify how Canada and the United States were cooperating, when the cooperation started, and whether the working relationship had changed this year.

“Authorities in Canada and the United States face common impediments to the removal of inadmissible persons, which can include uncooperative foreign governments that refuse the return of their nationals or to issue timely travel documents,” an agency spokesperson wrote in an email.

“While Canada and the United



As Canada has increased deportations, which reached a decade-high last year, it has also run up against countries reluctant to accept deportees.
EVAN BUHLER/REUTERS FILE

States do not have a formal bilateral partnership that is specific to addressing this challenge, the Canada Border Services Agency continues to work regularly and closely with United States law enforcement partners on matters of border security.”

When the email was sent, then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in his last days in office before being replaced in March by Prime Minister Mark Carney. The Canada-U.S. relationship was strained by Trump’s threat of tariffs, which he said were partly a response to migrants illegally entering the United States from Canada.

The spokesperson added the CBSA has committed to deporting more people, from 18,000 in the last fiscal year to 20,000 in each of the next two years.

Immigration has become a contentious topic in Canada as some politicians blame migrants for a housing and cost-of-living crisis. The rise in Canada’s deportations largely reflects an increased focus on deporting failed refugee claimants. Refugee lawyers say that could mean some people are sent back to countries where they face danger while they try to contest their deportation.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

72-hour coast-to-coast train route proposed

Anthony Robledo
USA TODAY

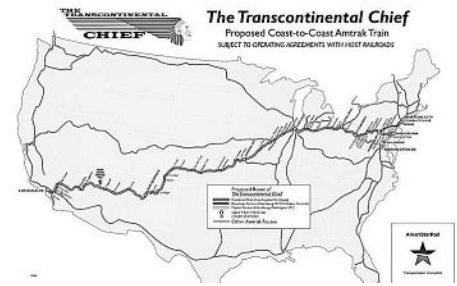
A rail company is proposing a new privately funded train route that can begin transporting people between Los Angeles and New York City in less than 72 hours as soon as next year.

Delaware-based group AmeriStarRail unveiled its coast-to-coast route called the Transcontinental Chief with hopes of it being operational by May 10, 2026, ahead of the United States’ 250th birthday and the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The goal date, which lands on National Train Day, is subject to operating agreements with various host railroads, the company clarified.

The project has been presented to the National Railroad Passenger Corp., also known as Amtrak. AmeriStarRail argues that a partnership between the two companies would be mutually beneficial, emphasizing that the route would be more profitable than Amtrak’s existing long-distance trains.

AmeriStarRail CEO Scott Spencer said Amtrak is seeking more information on the planning and coordination of the proposed system.

“This is a way to confront the challenges Amtrak faces and create opportunities for them to succeed,” Spencer said. “We’re hopeful that all the parties that are involved, including the host railroads, recognize what a great opportunity this is for our nation.”




AmeriStarRail’s proposed route between Los Angeles and New York City is called the Transcontinental Chief. PROVIDED BY AMERISTARRAIL

USA TODAY did not receive a response from Amtrak.

AmeriStarRail said the Transcontinental Chief train would replace the Southwest Chief and the Pennsylvanian Amtrak routes that currently help transport people between Southern California and New York via stops in Chicago or Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

New Yorkers will board the train from the Hoboken Terminal in New Jersey, a 3-mile ride to Lower Manhattan across the Hudson River through the Holland Tunnel.

AmeriStarRail clarified that it’s unable to directly stop in the Big Apple due to New York Penn Station tunnel restrictions for the passenger cars Amtrak uses, known as Superliners.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENTS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO RE-IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS AND SET A MAXIMUM RATE FOR ASSESSMENTS FOR FUTURE YEARS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, will conduct a public hearing to re-impose Solid Waste Service Assessments (the “Assessments”) for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, within the Solid Waste Services Assessment Area against certain residential property located within the incorporated area of the City, to fund the cost of solid waste and recyclable materials collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs, and to authorize collection by the tax collector of such Assessments on the non-ad valorem portion of the tax bill. The services to be provided are solid waste and recycling material collection, and disposal services to residential properties within the City.

The Assessments will be computed by multiplying the number of dwelling units on each parcel by the rate of assessment. The proposed rate of assessment for the upcoming fiscal year shall be \$467.33, effective October 1, 2025. The estimated total revenue that the City will collect by the Assessments is \$ 44,298,314.50 for fiscal year 2025-2026. The maximum rate for the annual solid waste service assessment in subsequent years shall not exceed \$513.70 unless changed by the City Council.

A public hearing (“Hearing”) will be held during a regular City Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 25, 2025, in City Council Chambers at City Hall, Building A, 121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984 for the purpose of: (a) receiving and considering comments on the Assessments from affected property owners and the public; (b) considering the adoption of the annual rate resolution for the upcoming fiscal year; and (c) authorizing the re-imposition of the Assessments for solid waste and recyclable materials collection and disposal for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, ; (d) setting a maximum rate not to be exceeded without additional notice to property owners in future fiscal years; and collecting such assessments, charges and fees on the same bill as ad valorem taxes. **Attendance at this public hearing is NOT mandatory. Please visit <http://www.cityofpsl.com/tv> for public comment options.** At the Hearing, the City Council will hear objections of all interested persons to the annual assessment resolution and the updated assessment roll, establish the rate of assessment and approve the initial assessment roll. All affected property owners have the right to appear at the Hearing and to file written objections with the City Clerk within 20 days of the publication of this notice.


Copies of the Solid Waste Services Assessment Ordinance (Ordinance No. 24-21) and the Preliminary Rate Resolution initiating the annual process of updating the assessment roll and re-imposing the Assessments, and the updated Assessment Roll of the 2025 tax roll year are available for inspection at the City Clerk’s office, located at City Hall, Building A, 121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984. All interested persons may ascertain the amount to be assessed against a parcel of assessed property at the City of Port St. Lucie’s Finance Department.


All objections to the annual rate resolution by the City Council shall be made in writing and filed with the City Clerk at or before the time or adjourned time of the Hearing. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the above-referenced Hearing, such person will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony, evidence, and any other matters presented at the hearing. No stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be provided at the hearing. Each such person is required to provide his or her own. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations should contact the ADA Coordinator at (772) 344-4345 at least seven (7) days prior to the Hearing.

Unless proper steps are initiated with a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within twenty (20) days from the date of City Council action at the above Hearing, such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented. Copies of the legal documentation for the assessment collection are available in the City Clerk’s office, located at 121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984.

The Assessments will be billed on the non-ad valorem portion of the tax bill to be mailed in November 2025, as authorized by the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Upon adoption of the assessment roll, all solid waste service assessments shall constitute a lien against the assessed parcel, equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district, or municipal taxes and special assessments. Except as otherwise provided by law, such lien shall be superior in dignity to all prior liens, mortgages, titles, and claims until paid. Failure to pay the Assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property or foreclosure proceedings to be instituted, either of which may result in a loss of title to the property. If you have any questions, please contact 1PSL at (772) 871-1775, Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk





NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE COLLECTION OF STORMWATER FEES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO RE-IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF STORMWATER ASSESSMENTS AND SET A MAXIMUM RATE FOR FEES ASSESSED IN FUTURE YEARS.

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, will conduct a public hearing to re-impose stormwater fees (the “Assessment”) for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, within the incorporated area of the City. The purpose of the Assessment is to provide funding for a stormwater management system to maintain and improve drainage in the City.

The City Council of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, hereby provides notice, pursuant to Section 197.3632, of its intent to re-impose stormwater fees within the incorporated area of the City to provide stormwater management in the City. The Assessment will be collected by the St. Lucie County Tax Collector. The City has proposed a rate of \$189.00 per year, for one equivalent residential unit (ERU) for fiscal year 2025-2026 and a maximum rate not to exceed \$219.00 per year, for one equivalent residential unit (ERU) for subsequent years unless changed by the City Council. The base unit of measurement (ERU) is the average impervious area for a single-family residence and is equal to 2,280 square feet as it represents the largest uniform class of developed property. The estimated total revenue that the City will collect by the Assessments is \$ 32,075,848.21 for fiscal year 2025-2026

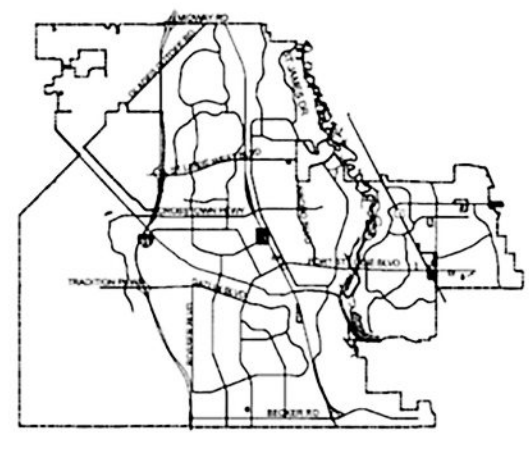
A public hearing (the “Hearing”) will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 25, 2025, in Council Chambers at City Hall, Building A, 121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984 for the purpose of: (a) receiving and considering comments on the Assessments from affected property owners and the public; (b) considering the adoption of the annual rate resolution for the upcoming fiscal year; and (c) authorizing the re-imposition of the Assessment for stormwater for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025; (d) setting a maximum rate not to be exceeded without additional notice to property owners in future fiscal years; and collecting the Assessment on the same bill as ad valorem taxes. **Attendance at this public hearing is NOT mandatory. Please visit <http://www.cityofpsl.com/tv> for new public comment options.** At the Hearing, the Council will hear objections of all interested persons to the annual rate resolution establishing the rate of assessment and approving the updated assessment roll. All affected property owners have the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the City Clerk within twenty (20) calendar days of the date of this notice.

All objections to the annual rate resolution by the Council shall be made in writing and filed with the City Clerk at or before the time or adjourned time of the Hearing. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the above-referenced hearing, such person will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony, evidence, and any other matters presented at the hearing. No stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be provided at the hearing. Each such person is required to provide his or her own. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations should contact the ADA Coordinator at (772) 344-4345 at least seven (7) days prior to the hearing.

Unless proper steps are initiated with a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within thirty (30) days from the date of City Council action at the above hearing, such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented. Copies of the legal documentation for collection of the Assessment are available in the City Clerk’s office, located at 121 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984.

Please direct general inquiries to 1PSL at (772) 871-1775 weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. The Assessments will be collected on the non-ad valorem portion of the tax bill to be mailed in November 2025 as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the Assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property or foreclosure proceedings to be instituted, either of which may result in a loss of title to the property.

The property subject to the Assessments is depicted below:



Please note that this is not a new charge and it may have appeared on the tax bill of affected property owners in prior years. The charge on such tax bills last year was based on a rate of \$183.00 per ERU. Pursuant to *Atlantic Gulf Communities v. City of Port St. Lucie*, 764 So. 2^d 14 (Fla. 4th DCA, 1999), every time the fee is levied for the first time or the rate of the fee is changed, the City is required by law to provide notice.

Sally Walsh, City Clerk
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