

No “new projects” with the \$138 million for the railway

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GASPÉ – The Quebec government has allocated \$138.6 million to continue rehabilitation work on the Gaspé Peninsula railway, but the funding applies only to projects for which contracts had already been awarded.

The funding forms part of the \$301 million in transportation investments announced by the provincial government on May 6.

No new projects have been launched to complete the rail upgrade to Gaspé.

In 2024, the Quebec government issued calls for tenders for 15 projects linked to the rehabilitation of the rail line.

However, in March 2025, the government suspended part of the project for reassessment due to major cost overruns.



Photo: Anthony Bernard Prince

One of the repaired bridges between Port-Daniel-Gascons and Gaspé, precisely in Grande-Rivière.

At the time, nine of the 15 projects already underway continued, while six projects that had not yet begun were placed on hold.

The newly announced funding will allow those six suspended projects to proceed.

“As you may recall, during the analysis of Section 3, (be-

tween Port Daniel and Gaspé) we encountered challenges related to the budget and service providers. We had to put six of the 15 projects on hold. We are announcing that we are moving forward with the remaining six projects. We are maintaining the pace of investment and the progress of these major

works. As for the rest, the committee is continuing its work to obtain the best analyses in order to make the best possible decisions,” comments Stéphane Sainte-Croix, Member of the National Assembly (MNA) for Gaspé.

With this latest funding announcement, combined with the \$133.5 million already committed and disclosed by Quebec’s Ministry of Transport through access-to-information requests, the total investment for the Port-Daniel-Gascons-to-Gaspé section now reaches approximately \$272 million.

That leaves roughly \$300 million remaining from the budget announced by former transportation minister Geneviève Guilbault during a visit to Gaspé in June 2023.

“We’re on track in terms of the budget. We’re in that range. We hope to be able to stay

within the budget. That said, there are always surprises and changes in major contracts. We’re confident and we’re working on it,” says Mr. Sainte-Croix.

Three tenders launched in 2024 were cancelled after bids came in at a total of at least \$430 million to complete the majority of the remaining rail work.

Given that the available budget currently stands at only \$301 million for the year 2026-2027, a shortfall of roughly \$130 million remains if the line is to reach Gaspé — unless the Quebec government finds a way to complete the remaining work within the existing budget envelope.

The total budget announced in 2023 for the entire rail rehabilitation project between Matapédia and Gaspé stood at \$871.8 million.