



Spring 2009

Infrastructure improvements in the Alexandria Subdivision

The recent track work and infrastructure improvements to the Alexandria subdivision, located between Ottawa and Montreal, were completed as part of the Government of Canada's \$516-million capital investment, announced in October 2007.

Alexandria Subdivision

Work completed on the Alexandria Subdivision, worth some \$12.5 million, represents the first phase of a multi-year, multi-phase program that will modernize key parts of the rail infrastructure between Ottawa and Montreal. Work included:

- Installation of a .76km long passing track (siding) by PNR RailWorks Inc., approximately 16km east of Ottawa, near Carlsbad Springs.
- The siding:
 - Was constructed with remote-controlled power switches tied into the existing Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) system and Rail Traffic Control (RTC) dispatch system;
 - Also included the installation of a back track (additional track adjacent to the siding) for the storage of maintenance equipment, when required.
- Installation of new continuously-welded rail over 40 track miles between Coteau, QC and Moose Creek, ON by Total Track.
- The purchase of new steel rails from Canadian Rail Track Materials to replace existing rails. The existing rails, in turn, were sold to lower VIA's overall net cost and ensure the steel was reused.
- The purchase of 10 miles of rail to the east and west of Ottawa station from Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways.
- The structural rehabilitation of the bridge over the South Nation River in Casselman, ON, completed by SEMA Railway Structures.

Benefits

Improved infrastructure will enhance safety, while eliminating many delays caused by congestion, and allow passenger trains to operate at higher speeds. As a result, capacity will increase, generating potential for new return trips, as well as faster and more frequent service. This will make it possible to offer a more reliable service and better on-time performance. As other key infrastructure projects are completed throughout the Corridor over the coming years, VIA will be able to add more trains, increase train speed and reduce its travel times, all the while improving the safety and reliability of its service.

VIA presently operates 503 trains per week, including 429 in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor. In 2007, the trains in the Corridor carried 3.8 million passengers, representing 90% of the Corporation's total clientele. Once work is completed in the Corridor, VIA anticipates being able to accommodate more than one million additional passengers.

- 30 -

Media Contacts:

Nadia Seraiocco
Corporate Communications
(514) 871-6119

Transport Canada
Media Relations, Ottawa
(613) 993-0055