



*Spring 2009*

## Infrastructure improvements on the Smiths Falls Subdivision

As part of the Government of Canada's \$516-million capital investment plan announced in October 2007, modernization to key parts of the rail infrastructure in the Smiths Falls subdivision on the Ottawa-Toronto rail line is currently underway.

### Smiths Falls Subdivision

Work on the Smiths Falls Subdivision is part of a multi-phase, multi-year program worth some \$10 million. The work, which is taking place between Smiths Falls and Ottawa, includes:

- Extensive track work and upgrades including the construction of new passing tracks (sidings). This work, being carried out by D + S Railway Construction Inc, is taking place over two phases:
  - Phase 1: Grading and drainage work for the sidings at Dwyer Hill, ON and Smiths Falls, ON, which began in 2008 will be completed by summer 2009.
  - Phase 2: The construction of signals for the new sidings. This work, along with the development of a Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) system and work to upgrade level crossing automatic warning devices, is being carried out by X-Rail Signals Inc.

All projects in the Smiths Falls Subdivision are scheduled for completion by the end of 2009.

### Benefits

Improved infrastructure will enhance safety, while eliminating many delays caused by congestion, and allow passenger trains to operate at higher speeds. As this and 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 this 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.

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