



Backgrounder

April 2012

VANCOUVER STATION

Designated a Heritage Rail Station by the Government of Canada in 1991, Vancouver Station has been a landmark in downtown Vancouver since 1919. It was named Pacific Central Station in 1993, when VIA began operating the facility as an integrated intermodal terminal serving Amtrak trains from Seattle and intercity bus services, as well as VIA's passenger trains.

VIA has completed extensive restoration of the station over the past three years, including work on the platform canopies alongside the tracks, repair and repointing of all exterior stonework, roof repairs, and restored or new exterior windows and doors. Security improvements have also been made. The \$6.9 million restoration was funded by the Government of Canada, including \$2.3 million from the Government's Economic Action Plan.

A feature article on the restoration project is available online:

<http://www.viarail.ca/en/about-via-rail/capital-investment/feature-story/vancouver-station-restored>

A media gallery of project photos is available at:

<http://www.viarail.ca/en/about-via-rail/capital-investment/media-gallery/vancouver-station-restoration>

Investing in Passenger Rail

The station investment is part of a nationwide investment to improve Canada's passenger rail service. The Government of Canada announced a \$516 million investment to strengthen passenger rail services in 2007. Another \$407 million was added in 2009 through Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government's economic stimulus program. The total of \$923 million in funding is the biggest capital investment in VIA Rail's history.

Capital projects include:

- Trains: rebuilding locomotives and passenger cars to improve reliability, environmental performance, and quality of service.
- Track: improving and upgrading track in the Quebec-Windsor Corridor, where the demand for passenger rail service is highest, to improve on-time performance and allow faster, more frequent intercity trains.
- Stations: major renovations and restoration such as the Vancouver station project, building new stations where needed, and upgrading all stations across Canada to improve customer comfort, safety and security.
- Technology: upgrading and developing new technologies to improve operational efficiency, provide better online services to customers, enhance customer service, and integrate VIA's travel booking and ticketing systems with those of other transportation services.

Information on all capital projects is available online at:

<http://www.viarail.ca/en/about-via-rail/capital-investment>

About VIA Rail

VIA Rail Canada operates the national passenger rail service on behalf of the Government of Canada. An independent Crown Corporation established in 1977, VIA Rail Canada's (www.viarail.ca) mandate is to provide safe, efficient, more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective passenger transportation, in the country's two official languages.

Every week, VIA operates 503 intercity, regional and transcontinental trains linking 450 communities from coast to coast and north to Hudson Bay across its 12,500-kilometre route network.

Winner of the 2011 Railway Association of Canada's Safety Award, VIA transports over four million passengers annually. The demand for VIA services is growing as travellers increasingly turn to train travel as a safe, hassle-free and environmentally responsible alternative to congested roads and airports. Follow VIA on Twitter at twitter.com/via_rail. Visit VIA on Facebook at facebook.com/viarailcanada.

VIA in Western Canada

VIA provides passenger services mandated by the Government of Canada. These include rapid intercity services, cross-Canada services, and services to remote communities.

In Western Canada, VIA provides year-round, all-weather services, including the legendary Canadian train operating between Toronto and Vancouver three times per week. VIA also operates regional services in the West, between Jasper, Alberta and Prince Rupert, British Columbia, and between Winnipeg and Churchill, Manitoba.

More information about VIA Rail and its services is available online at:
<http://www.viarail.ca/en/about-via-rail>

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