

## New Smiths Falls Station

VIA's new Smiths Falls station, which has been serving passengers since the beginning of August this year, is located just north of downtown. It is fully accessible, including an accessible washroom. With its distinctive tower, the station has been designed to blend harmoniously with the historic character and tie in with the railway tradition of Smiths Falls. It will provide easy passenger access and ample parking, and allow room for future growth. The new location will also reduce potential schedule conflicts between VIA passenger and Canadian Pacific freight trains at the old site, which was at a junction between busy CP lines and VIA's Smiths Falls to Ottawa line.

Smiths Falls station has also proven to be a successful example of community partnership between VIA Rail and the City of Smiths Falls. VIA built the new station and will be responsible for repairs and upgrades. It also installed economical systems such as a programmable and automatic opening and closure system, which allows the small station to remain safely unstaffed. Meanwhile, day-to-day operations such as snow removal, janitorial services and landscaping are being managed by the City.

VIA's Smiths Falls station project is closely linked with other work that is now, or will soon be, completed throughout the Quebec-Windsor Corridor, which generates almost 90% of VIA's ridership and revenue. Other corridor projects include upgrading of the VIA-owned Ottawa-Smiths Falls rail line, the CP-owned Brockville-Smiths Falls rail line and Canadian National's Montreal-Toronto main line. These projects combined will increase VIA train safety, frequency and speed. Find out more about the capital investment program at [viarail.ca/transformingvia](http://viarail.ca/transformingvia). In 2011-12, Transport Canada approved funding, under the Grade Crossing Closure Program, for the closure of 41 private crossings along the VIA right of way, which is expected to greatly reduce level crossing accidents.

## About VIA Rail Canada

As Canada's national rail passenger service, VIA Rail Canada's ([www.viarail.ca](http://www.viarail.ca)) mandate is to provide efficient, more environmentally sustainable and cost-effective passenger transportation, in the country's two official languages. Every week, VIA operates 503 intercity, transcontinental and regional trains linking 450 communities across its 12,500 kilometers route network. 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. VIA safely transports over four million passengers annually. Follow VIA on Twitter at [twitter.com/via\\_rail](https://twitter.com/via_rail). Check out VIA on Facebook at [facebook.com/viarailcanada](https://facebook.com/viarailcanada).

