

VIA'S CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BROCKVILLE BACKGROUNDER

About the Project

VIA's Corridor Improvement Program is the largest-ever improvement and investment program in the 153-year history of passenger rail service in the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto triangle. The project is part of a major investment by the Government of Canada in passenger rail renewal and expansion. The construction project will create new jobs, providing a stimulus to the economy, while also allowing VIA to provide better passenger rail service to this region.

VIA's Corridor Improvement Program will add capacity, help to relieve rail congestion and improve the flow of time-sensitive VIA passenger trains in the Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto triangle. The program will also enhance safety and the environmental performance of rail operations. Construction is planned to take place in, or near: Oshawa, Cobourg, Belleville, Marysville, Gananoque, Brockville, Coteau, Les Cèdres and Montreal.

Brockville Project Details

The Brockville project area is located south of Highway 401, within the County of Leeds and Grenville, in the town of Brockville, both east and west of Perth Street. The infrastructure upgrades will take place between Stewart Boulevard/William Street overpass and County Road 46 (Lyn Rd).

The proposed work consists of adding 0.4 kilometres of mainline track, upgrading 2.25 kilometres of existing track, widening a pedestrian bridge, and adding an additional span over a watercourse crossing, Butler's Creek.

Enhanced Safety Improvements

The warning system at the Perth Street crossing will be upgraded to reduce the amount of time that the signals are activated when slower trains approach. The new technology will provide more consistent warning times.

New VIA Station

The proposed work also consists of building a new VIA station, which will include improved and expanded facilities. The new station will be a fully accessible and aesthetically pleasing structure, which will be located east of the existing building with upgraded and enlarged parking facilities. The existing building is no longer large enough to accommodate all customers at peak periods.

New features to the station include building a new platform on the south side of the tracks. The new platform will be connected to the station by a fully accessible overhead walkway, so that passengers will not have to cross the tracks at grade. This will provide a safer and more efficient operation. The station improvements are expected to commence in 2010 and be complete in 2011. During this time, the existing station will remain in operation.

Project Benefits

- Additional rail capacity
- Enhanced safety
- Improved environmental performance
- New station
- Better on-time performance
- Shorter trip times
- Opportunities for local contractors to participate in construction projects
- All construction will be undertaken in accordance with environmental regulatory requirements.

Project Timeline

Surveys and environmental assessments began in July 2009. Construction has begun with the overall project scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011.

Environmental Assessment

All project work is being coordinated with local civic and road authorities. Prior to commencing work, extensive environmental assessments will be carried out and the appropriate approvals will be obtained from the federal government. Further information about the environmental assessment is available on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) registry site at:

<http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=48>

Safety Measures

Whistling Requirements

Train whistles are safety devices that alert motorists, pedestrians and rail workers to the presence of an approaching train. Currently, in response to community concerns, CN has agreed that its trains will not whistle at public crossings as they pass through Brockville between 10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m., unless in an emergency situation.

However, when railway workers are on or near the tracks, approaching trains are required to sound their whistles no matter what time of the day or night or any voluntary or regulated relief from the usual whistling requirements. These measures are put in place to ensure the safety of rail workers.

Brockville residents can expect that during construction, if crews are working on the tracks between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., night time whistling in work areas will occur.

Our Commitment

VIA's commitment is to ensure that all work is done as safely and efficiently as possible. We will notify the local road authorities of scheduled road closures and will provide these updates to the community via the project website at www.viacorridor.ca.

Residents and businesses adjacent to the project sites can expect that active construction will take place at various periods throughout the coming months, and at times during night hours.

Feedback

To learn more about the VIA Corridor Improvement Program, please visit our project website at www.viacorridor.ca. For more information, please contact Lindsay Fedchyshyn at lindsay_fedchyshyn@viarail.ca or toll free at 1-866-757-6778.