

VIA'S CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COBOURG (GRAFTON PASSING TRACK) 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.

Grafton Passing Track Project Details

The Grafton Passing Track project area is located south of Highway 401, east of William Street along the north shore of Lake Ontario, within the Town of Cobourg in the County of Northumberland. The infrastructure upgrades will take place between Station Road and William St. (Hwy. 2).

The proposed work consists of upgrading 1.5 kilometres of mainline track in the Cobourg yard, removing 933 metres of track opposite the station, and adding 11.5 kilometres of new third mainline track to the east into Grafton. In addition to expanding culverts in the project area, construction will involve widening of four bridges at the Archers Road Overpass, King Street (Hwy No. 2 overpass), Barnum House Creek and Brock Creek.

Enhanced Safety Improvements

The warning systems will be upgraded at all public crossings within the construction area to reduce the amount of time that the signals are activated when slower trains approach. The new technology will provide more consistent warning times. This includes the crossings at the Brook Road North, D'Arcy Street, Ontario Street and Pentecostal Road.

Improved VIA Station

Station facilities will be improved and expanded, resulting in enhanced service for VIA customers. In addition to the construction of an island platform, plans also include the erection of an overhead pedestrian walkway allowing for improved access for entraining and detraining.

Project Benefits

- Additional rail capacity
- Enhanced safety
- Improved environmental performance
- Improved 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. As such, when railway workers are working on the tracks, approaching trains are required to sound their whistles no matter what time of the day or night. These measures are put in place to ensure the safety of rail workers.

Residents can expect that during construction, while work crews are working on the tracks, trains will be required to sound their whistles, including at night.

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.