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# Tremblay LRT station to serve as important connector: officials

## Confederation LRT construction full steam ahead



## Tremblay Station

Erin McCracken

*Mayor Jim Watson, centre, looks over the design for the future Tremblay LRT station, which he said will serve as an important connector given its proximity to the Via Rail station. He was joined at the Jan. 13 press conference by several officials and city, provincial and federal politicians, including Ottawa South MPP John Fraser, left, Ottawa West-Nepean MP Anita Vandenberg, Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, president of Via Rail Canada, and Nepean MP Chandra Arya.*

Ottawa South News

By [Erin McCracken](#)

The future Tremblay light-rail transit station is taking shape and once open, passengers arriving at the nearby Via Rail station will be able to hop on LRT and arrive downtown within minutes, officials said.

The LRT station will function as “an intermodal link” between Via’s intercity rail service and the city’s light-rapid transit system, Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, president and chief executive of Via Rail Canada, said during a press conference at the Tremblay Road Via station on Jan. 13.

The Tremblay LRT connection “will bring Canadians to the nation’s parliament within seven minutes,” he said. “So it’s a great day for Via Rail and it’s a great day for Canada.”

Tremblay station, where workers could recently be seen pouring concrete, will be one of 13 “world-class” LRT stations on the Confederation line, Mayor Jim Watson said following a tour of the Tremblay construction site, where he was joined by project officials and politicians from all three government levels.

“And I’m pleased to confirm that all 13 of these stations will be under construction before the end of this year,” he said. “These stations will greatly improve the customer experience for our transit users.”

Assembly of the LRT trains is also now underway.

“In fact, we’ll start testing some of these world-class LRT vehicles before the end of 2016,” the mayor said. “That’s right, 2016 will be the year you will start seeing Confederation Line trains running and being tested right here in the nation’s capital.”

Almost 70 per cent of the city’s population will live within a five-kilometre trip to a light-rail station, said Watson, adding that LRT will “fundamentally transform Ottawa for generations to come.”

Construction of the first phase of the Confederation Line, which is scheduled to open in 2018, is “on time and on budget,” and once open “will improve commute times through and from the downtown core,” said Watson.

Excavation of the downtown Lyon station cavern is complete, and Parliament and Rideau stations are almost 70 per cent excavated.

“I’m pleased to announce today that the LRT tunnel will be fully excavated by this summer,” he said.

As well, more than 3.5 kilometres of track have been laid, much of it near the Belfast maintenance facility, where the light-rail trains will be parked at night, Watson said, with more large segments of track to be laid in the months ahead.

Canada’s federal infrastructure and communities minister said during the event that Ottawa’s future LRT service “will be one of the most advanced and innovative transit systems in North America.”

Public transit is not just about moving people from A to B.

“It’s about building strong, sustainable communities,” Amarjeet Sohi said.

The federal government has an “ambitious agenda” to “build the kind of communities that we all desire to live in,” and over the next two years infrastructure funding will be doubled to \$20 billion, he said.

Over the next decade, the federal government will invest an additional \$60 billion, shared between public transit and social and green infrastructure, to boost community “resiliency.”

Ottawa South MPP John Fraser, who was also attended, said the Tremblay station is a milestone in the construction of the LRT line, which “is creating thousands of jobs in this community, which has a significant impact on our economy.”

Watson said over the course of the build-out for phase one of LRT, 20,000 person years of employment will be created – with even more coming during the larger second phase of light-rail construction.