

Ottawa Light Rail Transit project timeline

OTTAWA SUN

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An artist's conception of a portion of the Ottawa LRT system. (Submitted art)

OTTAWA LIGHT RAIL TIMELINE

- Nov. 13, 2006: Larry O'Brien is elected mayor of Ottawa.
- Dec. 14, 2006: Council votes 13-11 to cancel the 30-km, \$1-billion north-south LRT plan. Coun. Diane Deans calls it "the worst decision council has ever made."
- June 5, 2007: City sued for \$175 million by Siemens Canada-led consortium that was going to build the north-south LRT line.
- June 6, 2007: A report from O'Brien's transportation task force recommends a 3-km twin tunnel between LeBreton Flats and the University of Ottawa.
- Nov. 28, 2008: Council approves a new 25-year transportation master plan and making the east-west LRT line a priority.
- Sept. 11, 2009: Council votes to settle with Siemens for \$36.7 million.
- Oct. 23, 2009: A revised estimate of east-west LRT line goes from \$1.4 billion to \$2.1 billion. Then-MPP and cabinet minister Jim Watson doesn't think the cost is affordable.
- Dec. 18, 2009: Premier Dalton McGuinty announces up to \$600 million for Ottawa's transit plan.
- Jan. 13, 2010: Council endorses the functional design for the LRT line.
- June 8, 2010: Ottawa MP and federal cabinet minister John Baird announces up to \$600 million for the transit project.
- Aug. 17, 2010: Province approves LRT environmental assessment.
- Oct. 25, 2010: Jim Watson is elected mayor of Ottawa.
- Dec. 21, 2010: First indication the 3.2-km tunnel might be shortened because of difficult ground conditions around Campus station.
- May 25, 2011: Council votes to accelerate the LRT construction timeline to have the work done by 2017.
- June 30, 2011: The city releases the first phase of its request for proposals to build the LRT line.
- July 7, 2011: The city announces major changes to the design, including a shorter and shallower tunnel under Queen St.
- Oct. 21, 2011: Three construction consortia are shortlisted for the LRT contract: ACS Infrastructure, Bouygues Travaux Publics and Vinci Concessions.
- Feb. 9, 2012: A special LRT trade show is held at the CE Centre to connect bidders with local suppliers.
- March 28, 2012: Council approves more changes to the design, including moving the Rideau station east and removing a station entrance on Elgin St.
- July 13, 2012: Feds approve LRT environmental assessment.
- July 17, 2012: The city issues a tender for professional artists to decorate the 13 stations. The estimated arts budget for the LRT project is \$10 million.
- Sept. 10, 2012: The city announces it has received the three construction bids before the deadline.
- Nov. 23, 2012: City manager Kent Kirkpatrick tells council the preferred construction bid will be announced Wednesday; a public showcase will follow.