

News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Light Rail Vehicle purchase makes transit more accessible

Edmonton, AB... City of Edmonton transit users will soon ride in new, state-of-the-art light rail vehicles (LRVs). As a part of the City's South Light Rail Transit (LRT) Extension, 26 new LRVs have been purchased from Siemens Canada. The new cars will begin to arrive in Edmonton in May 2008.

"The LRT extension is expected to double ridership by the time it is complete in 2009. This acquisition will ensure current service levels are maintained when that happens," says Wayne Mandryk, the City of Edmonton's Transit Projects Branch Manager. "In addition to a more modern appearance, the new vehicles will be air conditioned."

The contract, worth approximately \$98 million, is for vehicles based on the Siemens SD160 model; the same model used in Calgary, Salt Lake City and Denver. They will be manufactured at the Siemens facility in Sacramento California.

Siemens installed the first Light Rail Transit system in North America in Edmonton in 1978. "Siemens is pleased to provide the City of Edmonton with these AC propulsion vehicles, and this order reflects the strong partnership we have shared over the past 27 years," according to Prof. Dr. Albert Maringer, President & CEO of Siemens Canada. "Innovation and the acceptance of reliable technology will continue to drive our partnership forward – enabling Edmonton to face the challenges of tomorrow, today."

With a ridership of approximately 42,000 per day, the City of Edmonton's current LRT system spans more than 12 kilometres, includes 10 stations, and operates a fleet of 37 Siemens/Deuwig U2 LRVs that were purchased between 1978 and 1983. The South LRT Extension is expected to double ridership by adding approximately eight kilometres of track and five new stations by the end of 2009.

The extension is jointly funded by the City of Edmonton, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Alberta, with support through the New Deal for Cities and Communities and the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program.

For more information on the City of Edmonton, visit www.edmonton.ca. For more information on the South LRT Extension, visit www.edmontonslrt.com.

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Note: Conceptual drawings are available by calling the City of Edmonton at (780) 496-5505

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