

# News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Sleek, modern and ready for riders** *Edmonton's new state-of-the art Light Rail Transit vehicle unveiled*

**Edmonton, June 23, 2008** – As the City of Edmonton continues to grow and build for the future, the first of 37 new Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles ordered by the City has made its first public appearance this morning at an unveiling event at the D.L. MacDonald Maintenance Facility. The event also marks the thirtieth anniversary of the formal event to accept delivery of the first LRT vehicle to Edmonton's fleet.

"Edmonton's public transportation system represents the kind of environmentally sustainable infrastructure that cities must adopt. This recent growth and development of the city's LRT system is an example of how the federal Gas Tax Fund supports important economic and environmental infrastructure projects in Canada," said Laurie Hawn, MP for Edmonton Centre and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence, on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

"The Government of Alberta is proud to contribute to this Edmonton project through the City Transportation Fund and the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program," said Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs. "Expanding the LRT service will greatly improve Edmontonians' quality of life and address the city's tremendous growth pressures."

"By investing in Edmonton's LRT we are not just investing vehicles or rail lines, we are investing in a system that is sustainable, is good for the environment and will increase the comfort of our passengers," said Mayor Stephen Mandel.

The 37 vehicles will be used to service the South LRT extension (scheduled to open new stations in April 2009 to South Campus and in April 2010 to Century Park), and to increase ridership capacity on the City's existing Health Sciences to north Edmonton line. When the line is fully complete, LRT ridership is expected to double to 100,000 passengers per day.

"It is the City of Edmonton's dedication to innovation and reliability that has continued to drive our continued strong partnership for over three decades," said Mario Péloquin, Director Business Development, Siemens Canada Limited, Transportation Systems. "Building on thirty years of technology, today our vehicles meet even higher standards for operational safety, reliability and environmental protection, bringing the best in LRT Transportation technology to Edmonton."

The first LRT car was shipped to Edmonton last month by Siemens, from its facility in Sacramento, California -- Siemens Centre of Competence for light rail transit. The LRT vehicles will undergo thorough testing to ensure they meet the City's operating requirements and specifications. The first trains begin service this coming fall.

Funding for the vehicles was provided by the Government of Canada through the Gas Tax Fund. To date, the City of Edmonton has received more than \$43 million through this fund.

Through its Building Canada Plan, the Government of Canada extended the Gas Tax Fund for an additional four years to 2014, providing \$8 billion to municipalities across the country. Budget 2008 announced that the Gas Tax Fund will become permanent beyond 2014 at \$2 billion per year, which will provide municipalities, such as Edmonton, with stable funding for their infrastructure needs.

The City of Edmonton also receives provincial funding for its LRT project through the ongoing Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program and the City Transportation Fund. In 2008-2009, the City of Edmonton will receive more than \$210 million from the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Fund and the City Transportation Fund. These grant funding programs are designed to provide support for priority municipal infrastructure projects including transportation and public transit undertakings such as the LRT lines and vehicles.

The City of Edmonton provides funding for the South LRT Extension and LRT vehicles through local taxes and borrowing. The federal gas tax fund will be used to help repay this borrowing.

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*Enclosures:*  
*LRT Vehicle Backgrounder*  
*South LRT Extension Fact Sheet*  
*SD160 Vehicle Specification Sheet*