Ceneri 2020 Celebrations

29 August 2019

Events to mark the opening of the Ceneri base tunnel and the completion of the NRLA

The opening of the Ceneri base tunnel in 2020 marks the completion of construction work on the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA). This provides an occasion for Switzerland to draw the public's and the transport sector's attention to the improvements the completed NRLA brings. Journey times on the north-south axis and in Ticino will be shortened and the policy of shifting road to rail will receive greater impetus.

Between September and December 2020, several events will be held to mark the completion of the NRLA. These will be coordinated by the Swiss Confederation, the construction company, AlpTransit Gotthard AG (ATG) and the operator, Swiss Federal Railways (SBB).

- **3 September 2020**
  Conference of Transport Ministers and meeting of railway heads in Ticino

- **4 September 2020**
  Federal opening ceremony at the tunnel’s north portal in Camorino and in Lugano

- **8 September 2020**
  ATG tunnel construction company event for employees in Camorino

- **12-13 December 2020**
  SBB celebrations to mark the opening of the Ceneri base tunnel with folk festivals in Bellinzona, Lugano and Locarno

All events share the name Ceneri 2020.

Opening ceremony

On 4 September 2020, the Confederation will officially open the Ceneri base tunnel at the north portal in Camorino (Bellinzona) and at Lugano railway station, thus marking the completion of the NRLA. This major construction project will be completed 28 years after the Swiss public voted in favour of a new Alpine rail link and 22 years after the vote to finance the expansion of the public transport network. The opening ceremony will be hosted by transport minister Simonetta Sommaruga, who in 2020 will hold the office of President of the Swiss Confederation. She will be accompanied by her fellow federal councillor, Ignazio Cassis, who is from Ticino. Around 650 guests will be invited,
including transport ministers, representatives of the railway and logistics sectors, representatives from the cantons and the federal parliament, and others who have been closely involved in the NRLA project in recent years.

**Meeting of transport ministers along the European North-South Corridor**  
On the previous day, 3 September 2020, European transport ministers will meet in Locarno at the invitation of transport minister Simonetta Sommaruga. The SBB is organising a meeting of the heads of European railway companies on the same day. Both events will focus on the international significance of the NRLA. The level rail line through the Alps forms the centrepiece of the European Rotterdam-Genoa freight corridor and is thus a core part of the policy of transferring the transport of freight from road to rail.

**Event for construction workers**  
On 8 September 2020, ATG will hold an event for all those who worked on the project. This will take place in Camorino.

**Celebrations to mark the opening of the Ceneri base tunnel**  
On 12 and 13 December 2020, the SBB is organising a public festival to mark the timetable change and the opening of the Ceneri base tunnel together with the Canton of Ticino, the cities of Bellinzona, Lugano and Locarno, and several other partners. The event will also mark the launch of the Ticino suburban railway. Prior to the festival, the SBB is hosting a further event to which the two federal councillors Simonetta Sommaruga and Ignazio Cassis, and guests from the worlds of politics, business and research, are invited. Events related to freight transport are also planned in Cadenazzo or Chiasso.

The Swiss representations abroad will also be holding their own events to mark the completion of the NRLA.

**Further information:** [www.ceneri2020.ch](http://www.ceneri2020.ch)

**For further inquiries:** 
info@ceneri2020.ch

Federal Office of Transport, Information  
[www.bav.admin.ch](http://www.bav.admin.ch)  
presse@bav.admin.ch

Alptransit Gotthard AG (ATG)  
[www.alptransit.ch](http://www.alptransit.ch)  
info@alptransit.ch

SBB AG  
[www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch)  
press@sbb.ch