

## “Stations combined in 2018?”

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The plans that Infrastrutture Lombarde delivered to Mayor **Attilio Fontana** and to the Regional Councillor for Infrastructure, **Raffaele Cattaneo**, during the meeting of the "supervisory board" for the Plan agreement for the combined stations, show a Varese distinctly "of the future".

The architects imagined a single point of access, with a new public building, and the two stations connected by a footbridge and a moving walkway.

There is a covered pedestrian passage between the State railway and the Ferrovie Nord stations, a bold suspended tunnel that connects the station with the Del Ponte Hospital, and also an incredible pedestrian square suspended 7m above Piazza Kennedy, the current market square, which will become a street level bus station; there will be a suspended pedestrian area that connects Via Monte Cimone in Giubiano to Via Morosini. This is the basic idea for the new stations. Not so much a single station, but a single urban space, with the tracks remaining where they are (moving them was considered far too expensive), an increased number of pedestrian passages and connections, and new buildings to upgrade the area. The Ferrovie Nord will lose two tracks, but will gain a modern appearance, with footbridges and trees, as you can see in the picture.

Raffaele Cattaneo, Mayor Attilio Fontana, the town councillor **Fabio Binelli** and the provincial councillor Piero Galparoli also established the timetable: in 2015, the railway work will be ready, and by 2018, everything will be finished. The private individuals who wish to invest in the new real estate, worth €150 million, will provide resources entirely for the public works, which are estimated at €31 million for the buildings and €12,1 million for the railway work. The total amounts to about €43 million. The public tender will be held by November 2013. The railway work will be finished by April 2015. All of the work will be complete by 2018. The total area involved will about 400,000m<sup>2</sup>. The area taken up by buildings will 55-65,000m<sup>2</sup>.

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