

15 May—Driverless 47-car CSX freight train carrying flammable materials ran for 2 hours at speeds up to 70 km/h in Ohio until finally stopped by coupling second braking engine at back

16 May—Car chased by police collided with train at crossing of Nishi Nippon Railroad's Omuta Line in Mizuma Town, Fukuoka Prefecture, injuring two fugitives

17 May—Domestic flight from Tehran crashed in northern Iran, killing all 29 people on board, including Transport Minister Rahman Dadman

25 May—Third-sector companies *IGR Iwate Ginga Tetsudo* (IGR Iwate Galaxy Railroad) and *Aoi Mori Tetsudo* (Blue Forest Railway) established to operate Morioka–Hachinohe line prior to extension of Tohoku Shinkansen to Hachinohe in December 2002

26 May—SNCF announced world-record run of high-speed TGV at 317.4 km/h in 3 hours and 9 minutes between Calais and Marseilles

27 May—Ground-breaking ceremony held in Toyama City, Japan for 600-km Hokuriku Shinkansen (Tokyo–Osaka) scheduled to open in 2013

30 May—Matsuyama City in Ehime Prefecture, home town of famous *haiku* (17-syllable poem) poet Shiki Masaoka, set up suggestion box at Iyo Railway's tramcars every 2 months

3 June—WWII Bell King Cobra fighter crashed at Biggin Hill Air Show in London, killing pilot

4 June—UIC announced establishment in 2002 of international container railway company using trans-Eurasia railway connecting Europe and Asia

9 June—Representatives of JR East, JR West, JR Central and Japan Railway Construction Public Corp., attended award ceremony recognizing world's best transport designs and constructions held in Trento, Italy

10 June—French TGV Méditerranée line opened between Valence and Marseilles to shorten 400-km journey between Paris and Marseilles) to about 3 hours

15 June—Diet passed law to fully privatize JR East, JR West and JR Central by selling all remaining government-held shares

21 June—Oita Prefecture and JR Kyushu jointly established *Oita Kosoku Tetsudo Hoyu* third-sector company to construct 110 km/h high-speed section on JR Kyushu's Nippo main line

22 June—Passenger train travelling from Mangalore to Chennai in India derailed off bridge killing 57 and injuring 250 people

22 June—American military truck stalled on crossing in Vilseck, southern Germany, hit by 2-car train killing truck driver, train driver and train passenger

24 June—Express and local trains on Echizen main line of Keihoku Electric Railway collided head on

29 June—Simultaneous ceremonies marking complete opening of first railway in Tibet (1956 km) held at Lhasa and Golmud in western territory of Qinghai

29 June—President of Liverpool Airport announced name changed to Liverpool John Lennon Airport when new terminal opens in spring 2002

4 July—Tupolev 154 of Vladivostok Avia Airline crashed near Siberian city of Irkutsk, killing all 145 people on board

7 July—JR West announced timetable revision due to opening of 182.7-km high-speed section between Yasugi and Masuda section on San'in main line

12 July—National Railway Museum in York, UK, opened permanent display of Japanese Series-0 shinkansen donated by JR West

12 July—According to the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, domestic passengers increased to 92.87 million (+1.4% over previous year) and international passengers to 19.54 million (+9.6%) in FY2000



Series-0 shinkansen (left) donated by JR West at National Railway Museum in York, UK

(EJRCF)

14 July—Two suburban trains collided head-on at Purkersdorf Station in Vienna

19 July—Teenage boy drove 9-car passenger train for 115 km in Uttar Pradesh, India before railway bureau deliberately derailed train to prevent head-on collision

21 July—Eleven people including 9 children crushed to death on pedestrian bridge at south side of JR West's Asaka Station on San'yō main line after fireworks festival

25 July—Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport predicted approximately 363,500 people will visit Japan for 2002 FIFA World Cup

30 July—JR Central announced seat reservation system enabling membership-card holders to reserve Tokaido Shinkansen from mobile phones and personal computers using Internet

30 July—Sightseeing plane crashed onto glacier near Juneau, Alaska, killing all six people on board

Milestones

Shinobu Shimizu

President of Tokyo Express Electric Railway (Tokyu) appointed Chairman of Association of Japanese Private Railways on 29 May. Joined Tokyu in 1953 after graduating in economics from Hitotsubashi University

Shigetaka Sato

Managing Director of Keihan Electric Railway Co., Ltd. appointed President on 28 June. Joined Keihan in 1965 after graduating in law from University of Kyoto

Kiyofumi Kamijo

Vice President of Tokyu appointed President on 28 June. Joined Tokyu in 1958 after graduating in politics from Waseda University

Makoto Yamanaka

Managing Director of Nankai Electric Railway appointed President on 28 June. Joined Nankai after graduating in economics from Ritsumeikan University

Masato Obata

Director General of Secretariat appointed Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on 6 July. Joined former Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1968. Served as Deputy Director General of Transport Policy Bureau, Director General of Railway Bureau, etc.

Ryuichiro Tanino

Director General of Maritime Bureau appointed Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs of Minister's Secretariat on 6 July. Joined former Ministry of Transport after graduating from Osaka Prefecture University in 1968. Served as Director General of Maritime Technology and Safety Bureau, etc.

Satoshi Iwamura

Deputy Vice Minister of Minister's Secretariat appointed Director General of Policy Bureau on 6 July. Joined former Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1969. Served as Director General of Civil Aviation Bureau and Director General of Transport Policy Bureau, etc.

Hiroki Ishikawa

Senior Deputy Director General of Railway Bureau appointed Director General. Joined former Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1971. Served as Councillor, etc.

Hayao Hora

Director General for Policy Planning appointed Director General of Road Transport Bureau. After graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1971, joined former Ministry of Transport where served as Administrative Councillor, etc.

Masafumi Yasutomi

Director General of Railway Bureau appointed Director General of Maritime Bureau. Joined former Ministry of Transport after graduating in law from University of Tokyo in 1970. Served as Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation Bureau, etc.