

For Immediate Release
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Aug. 12, 2010

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

SOUTH FRASER PERIMETER ROAD AGREEMENT SIGNED

VICTORIA – The Province and the Fraser Transportation Group have entered into a design, build, finance and operate agreement for the completion of the South Fraser Perimeter Road Project, announced Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Shirley Bond and the Honourable Stockwell Day, President of the Treasury Board of Canada and Minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Gateway.

“The agreement with Fraser Transportation Group represents the major contract for implementing the project and it provides excellent value for taxpayer dollars,” said Bond.

Under the contract, Fraser Transportation Group will be undertaking construction work costing \$658 million. Fraser Transportation Group was selected to carry out the final design and construction of the SFPR through a rigorous competitive selection process. This public-private partnership agreement finalizes a performance-based, fixed-price contract with Fraser Transportation Group to design, build, finance and operate the road for a term of 20 years. The contract includes \$200 million in private-sector financing and makes certain that Fraser Transportation Group assumes construction, cost, schedule, design, long-term maintenance and operational risks, as well as other costs related to the project.

The new 40-kilometre, four-lane SFPR will run along the south side of the Fraser River, improving the movement of people and goods through the region, providing better access to major trade gateways and reducing east-west travel times. It will extend from Deltaport Way in southwest Delta to 176th Street (Highway 15) in Surrey with connections to Highways 1, 91, 99 and TransLink’s new Golden Ears Bridge.

“This announcement brings us closer to realizing the full potential of this region as an important national trading connection with the Asia-Pacific,” said Minister Day. “The South Fraser Perimeter Road will help to strengthen our trade competitiveness by improving the movement of goods and people, while creating jobs and enhancing traffic safety and travel times throughout metro Vancouver.”

“The South Fraser Perimeter Road will remove trucks and regional traffic from community streets and put them back on the highway, where they belong,” said Bond. “The SFPR will improve economic and business opportunities in Delta and Surrey. It has been part of regional plans for the past 20 years, including the Greater Vancouver Livable Region Strategic Plan.”

This project includes the largest environmental and agricultural mitigation and enhancement plan for a highway construction project of this size in British Columbia. The environmental and agricultural mitigation and enhancement budget has been increased by \$57 million to \$88 million. This commitment includes improved and expanded agricultural irrigation systems, remediation of landfills and contaminated sites, improvements to the water management system for Burns Bog and fisheries habitat enhancements.

“The SFPR project went through the most rigorous environmental review and the most extensive public consultation process ever for a highway project in the history of the province,” said Bond. “Agencies and the public asked us to step up to ensure environmental and agricultural values were taken into account and we’ve done that.”

The Province has increased the project’s budget by \$37 million. This funding comes from savings realized from other ministry capital projects.

The SFPR project is part of the Province’s Gateway Program to build a comprehensive and effective transportation network that supports public transit, cycling and improved movement of people and goods.

The Government of Canada, through its Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative (APGCI), is contributing \$363 million towards this project, in addition to a \$2 million contribution towards the Environmental Assessment process. The APGCI is an integrated set of federal investment and policy measures focused on trade with the Asia-Pacific Region. Its mission is to establish Canada’s Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor as the best transportation network facilitating global supply chains between North America and Asia.

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A backgrounder follows.

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BACKGROUND

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SOUTH FRASER PERIMETER ROAD

The South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) project involves the construction of a new four-lane divided highway, approximately 40 km in length, located on the south side of the Fraser River. The road will extend from northeast of the existing Highway 17/Deltaport Way intersection, through the municipalities of Delta and Surrey, along the south bank of the Fraser River, with connections to Highways 1, 91 and 99 and the new Golden Ears Bridge.

The Fraser Transportation Group is an internationally led company that has combined the strength, innovation and experience of local and international construction firms. Members of the Fraser Transportation Group include:

- Equity Partners and Concessionaire:
 - ACS Infrastructure Canada Inc.
 - Leducor Development Ltd.
- Design-Build contractors:
 - Dragados Canada, Inc.
 - Leducor CMI Ltd.
 - Belpacific Excavating and Shoring Limited Partnership
 - Vancouver Pile Driving Ltd.

When completed, the new route will:

- Ease heavily congested municipal streets and reroute truck traffic away from residential neighbourhoods, thereby improving safety and local air quality, and restoring municipal roads as community connectors:
 - 80-per cent reduction in traffic on River Road in North Delta residential community.
 - 70-per cent reduction in traffic on River Road in Sunbury and Tilbury.
 - 400,000 fewer vehicles per year using local roads to access the Vancouver landfill.
 - Reduced ferry and Deltaport traffic on Highway 17 and Ladner Trunk Road through Ladner.
- Create commercial/industrial development opportunities with the potential to create 7,000 long-term jobs in Delta and Surrey
- Dramatically improve travel times between Tsawassen/Deltaport, industrial and port area along the Fraser River, Highway 1 and the Golden Ears Bridge.
- Improve connections to local and regional cycling routes.

The project incorporates extensive agricultural enhancements that will provide significant benefits for local farmers and agriculture in Delta – improving the range and quality of crops that can be grown on more than 6,070 hectares (15,000 acres) of farmland. Enhancements include:

- \$5 million for topsoil conservation to improve productivity on existing farms.
- \$10 million for local road enhancements to improved safety and access for farm vehicles. This includes farm overpasses and local road extensions.

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- \$18 million for irrigation/drainage system improvements and expansions and improvements to storm-water management, reducing flood risks.

As part of the SFPR project, environmental enhancement projects are being constructed to improve fisheries and wildlife habitat, improve Burns Bog water management, remediate contaminated sites and close landfills. Once complete, long-term monitoring of the enhancement locations will be in place. Environmental enhancement projects include:

- \$10 million to work with the Burns Bog Management Committee to improve water level and quality management for Burns Bog through innovative water-balance modelling, water-control structures and protective berms, all complementing the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Management Plan.
- \$19 million for the remediation of contaminated sites and closure of historical landfills.
- \$26 million for construction of numerous fisheries and wildlife enhancement sites including:
 - Construction of the new Alex Fraser tidal wetlands to provide a nursery and rearing home for young salmon and other fish.
 - Crescent Slough riparian restoration to improve drainage and connectivity to the northern and southern portions of the slough and Fraser River.
 - Construction of a marsh at the Manson Canal tidal wetland to provide habitat for salmon and other fish.
 - Wildlife crossings.

The SFPR is part of the Province's comprehensive Gateway Program that will improve roads and bridges for people, goods and transit throughout Metro Vancouver. The Gateway Program includes three major projects: Port Mann/ Highway 1 Improvement Project, SFPR, and Pitt River Bridge and Mary Hill Interchange Project (complete).

For maps and more information on the South Fraser Perimeter Road, visit: www.th.gov.bc.ca/gateway/SFPR/sfpr.htm.

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