



News Release

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TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge Project receives award as "Global Deal of the Year"

TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge Project has been recognized by *Infrastructure Journal* in the United Kingdom as the recipient of the prestigious "Global Deal of the Year." This is the highest award given annually by *Infrastructure Journal*, which considers projects in all sectors – not just transportation – throughout the world.

It was awarded to TransLink in recognition of the complexity of the project, the innovativeness of the financing and the speed with which the project reached financial close. The award was presented on March 2 in London, England.

This is only the most recent of many international and national acclamations that TransLink has received for the Golden Ears Bridge Project:

- *Project Finance International* magazine cited TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge Project as "North American Deal of the Year" for 2006.
- *Project Finance (Euromoney)* recognized TransLink's project as "North American PPP Deal of the Year" for 2006.
- TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge Project was awarded the "Gold Award for Project Financing" at the Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships 2006 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Toronto.

"The awards recognize TransLink's innovative financing approach that will result in six to ten million dollars in savings to taxpayers, compared with a project solely delivered by the public sector," said TransLink Chairman Malcolm Brodie. "They also recognize TransLink's success in achieving a fixed-price, date-certain contract and transferring responsibility for construction costs, on-time delivery and operating performance to the private sector."

TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge will improve the economic competitiveness of the Lower Mainland by reducing congestion and opening up access to employment, markets, services, facilities and recreational opportunities. The bridge will also provide community benefits, including new travel choices for transit users, cyclists and pedestrians. Construction of the new bridge and road network will create more than one billion dollars in economic activity and 7000 person years of employment.

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The Golden Crossing Group General Partnership, lead by Bilfinger Berger BOT Inc., is made up of local and international leaders in transportation design, construction, finance, asset management, bridge and highway operations, maintenance and rehabilitation.

The Golden Ears Bridge Project is approximately 14 kilometres in length and includes a six-lane toll bridge across the Fraser River, new arterial roads connecting the bridge to the existing road network on both sides of the Fraser River, and municipal road upgrades to improve traffic flow.

Scheduled to open in 2009, the Golden Ears Bridge will provide a vital link between the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, and the communities of Surrey and Langley, reducing travel time across the river by 20 to 30 minutes.

TransLink is the region's transportation authority, committed to working with communities and all levels of government to build an integrated transportation network that will improve the movement of goods and people through the Greater Vancouver region. TransLink supports the region's growth strategy, air quality and economic development objectives.

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For project information, contact:
Debbie Cox, Media Relations
Golden Ears Bridge Project
TransLink (The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority)
Tel: 604-453-3033
www.translink.bc.ca/goldenearsbridge