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Ministry of Transportation  
Transport Canada  
Office of the Premier

## GOVERNMENTS BREAK GROUND ON FIRST GATEWAY PROJECT

VANCOUVER – Canada’s New Government and the government of British Columbia have agreed to cost-share the construction of a new seven-lane bridge across the Pitt River. Premier Gordon Campbell and the Honourable David Emerson, Federal Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, broke ground at the site today.

Canada’s New Government is providing \$90 million in funding for costs associated with the construction of the bridge and a new grade-separated interchange at Lougheed Highway and Mary Hill Bypass. The Province is providing \$108 million.

“The economy of the Pacific is driving the world of today and we must capitalize on our geographical advantage by building for our future,” said Premier Campbell. “This is the first contract in our B.C. Gateway Program to improve infrastructure – reducing congestion and improving the movement of people and goods to boost our economy.”

“The ability to move goods quickly and efficiently through the Lower Mainland and into the markets across Canada and the United States is very important to importers and exporters,” said Minister Emerson. “This new bridge is the first of many Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor projects that will help our local communities, as well as contribute to Canada’s trade competitiveness.”

“The Pitt River crossing connects key economic and transportation facilities with Greater Vancouver,” said the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. “This investment demonstrates the commitment of Canada’s New Government to reducing congestion and improving the safety and efficiency of this important corridor.”

The team of Peter Kiewit & Sons (PKS) won the competitive bidding process for this project, meeting all of the required criteria set out in the request for proposals at the lowest price. The PKS proposal includes an innovative and cost-effective bridge concept offering significant benefits and advantages.

The seven-lane bridge will replace the two existing swing bridges that have seen vehicle traffic numbers triple since 1985. The cable-stayed bridge design will significantly reduce traffic congestion and delays as well as reducing interference with marine traffic. With fewer piers in the river, this new bridge will also reduce impacts to the environment and marine users. Work will begin immediately and the project is expected to be complete by November 2009.

Canada’s Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative is an integrated set of investment and policy measures to strengthen Canada’s competitive position in international commerce. The Initiative delivers significant new public investment – \$591 million overall, including \$321 million in immediate projects for a variety of infrastructure, transportation technology and border security projects.

The project is also part of the B.C. Gateway Program – the Ministry of Transportation’s plan to meet the needs of B.C.’s growing economy, increasing Asia-Pacific trade, and a growing population.

Additional information about the B.C. Gateway Program can be found at [www.gatewayprogram.bc.ca](http://www.gatewayprogram.bc.ca).

For more information about Canada’s Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative, please visit [www.tc.gc.ca](http://www.tc.gc.ca).

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