partnerships
British Columbia

Gateway Program: Pitt River Bridge and Mary Hill Interchange Project

"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."

– Premier Gordon Campbell

Project Overview

The Pitt River Bridge and Mary Hill Interchange Project includes a new bridge to replace the existing swing bridges and an interchange to replace the existing Lougheed Highway and the Mary Hill Bypass intersection. The $198 million project is a stand-alone component of the North Fraser Perimeter Road Project, and 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.

The new bridge has three lanes of westbound traffic and four lanes of eastbound traffic and provides up to 16 metres of marine clearance, as well as facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. Given its strategic location at the heart of the Lower Mainland's northeast sector, the Pitt River Bridge is a critical component of the region's transportation network.

The bridge is designed to accommodate different lane allocations. The bridge's seven lanes can be allocated as general-purpose lanes or as a combination of general purpose and HOV lanes. The design also allows for one lane to be added in the future. This additional lane could meet future demand for vehicle use (HOV, buses, and/ or other vehicles) or light rail rapid transit.

The existing intersection at Lougheed Highway and Mary Hill Bypass was replaced with a grade-separated interchange with on and off ramps that allow for free-flow of traffic, while also providing for future connection to the Fremont Extension, to support development in Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam.

Combined with the new bridge, these improvements allow for the elimination of the current counterflow system.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the Pitt River Bridge and Mary Hill Interchange project are to:

• Improve reliability for vehicle and marine traffic,
• Improve safety along a key goods movement and commuting corridor, and
• Provide capacity to serve the needs of growing municipalities and industry.

The new fixed bridge and interchange are intended to create lasting improvements that provide benefits to the movements of people, goods and transit as well as safely accommodating cyclists and pedestrians.

Partnership Highlights

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure reviews various contracting methods and selects the method that delivers best value to taxpayers. In this case, a Design Build (DB) contract was determined the best option for this project. DB provides the contractor the opportunity to be innovative and maximize efficiencies within the schedule and the contract fixed price while at the same time accepting all risks within the scope of the contract.

The team of Peter Kiewit Sons Co. (PKS) was the successful proponent in the competitive bidding process for this DB project, meeting all of the required criteria set out in the Request for Proposals at the lowest price. The PKS proposal included an innovative and cost-effective bridge concept offering significant benefits and advantages.

The seven-lane bridge:
• Replaced the two existing bridges that saw vehicle traffic numbers triple since 1985,
• Is significantly reducing traffic congestion and delays,
• Is reducing impacts to environment and marine users due to its cable-stayed design, and
• Was completed in October 2009.

The Government of Canada is providing $90 million in funding, the Province is providing $108 million.

Public Sector Partners

• Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
• Government of Canada

Private Sector Partners

• Peter Kiewit Sons Co. (PKS)

Partnerships BC's Role

Partnerships BC supported the Ministry of Transportation in the planning and evaluation of the project.

www.partnershipsbc.ca