

**Community Update** Port Mann/Highway 1 Projectwww.gatewayprogram.bc.ca

ISSUE NO. 1 • APRIL 2006

**PORT MANN/HIGHWAY 1 COMMUNITY UPDATE:
A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PORT MANN/HIGHWAY 1 PROJECT****PRE-DESIGN PUBLIC CONSULTATION UNDERWAY**

The Gateway Program is currently conducting pre-design consultation regarding proposed improvements to the Port Mann/Highway 1 corridor. The purpose of the pre-design consultation on the Port Mann and Highway 1 Project is to obtain community and stakeholder feedback on pre-design concepts for improvements to the Port Mann/Highway 1 corridor between Vancouver and Langley. The consultation seeks feedback on goals for interchange upgrades, and options for congestion reduction measures such as high occupancy vehicle lanes, HOV, transit and commercial vehicle priority access to on-ramps, a proposed bridge toll, and improvements to the cycling network.

Thirteen open houses will be held to provide residents, community organizations and businesses with an opportunity to provide feedback on the pre-design options. You can provide feedback by attending an open house or by accessing consultation materials, including an on-line feedback form, on the Gateway Program website at www.gatewayprogram.bc.ca. Information on the open houses is also available on the website or by contacting the Gateway Program at 604-456-2420.

Feedback gathered will be considered along with technical and financial information as the Ministry of Transportation moves to the preliminary design stage of project development. Consultation will also be held at the preliminary and detailed design stages of project development, and during the environmental assessment process.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE**Surrey:**

April 8, 2006, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Guildford Recreation Centre, 15105-105th Avenue

Surrey:

April 11, 2006, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
North Surrey Arena, 10275 – 135th Street

Coquitlam:

April 22, 2006, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
Coquitlam Library, Poirier Branch
575 Poirier Street

Abbotsford:

April 24, 2006, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Ramada Plaza & Conference Centre
36035 North Parallel Road

Coquitlam:

April 25, 2006, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Planet Ice, 2300 Rocket Way

Maple Ridge:

April 27, 2006, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Ridge Meadows Seniors' Activity Centre
12150 224th Street

Abbotsford:

April 29, 2006, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm
Abbotsford Recreation Centre, 34690 Old Yale Road

PORT MANN/HIGHWAY 1 PROJECT GOALS

Highway 1 is the most significant commuter route in Greater Vancouver and also a major goods movement corridor. Congestion on the corridor has reached a critical level with the Port Mann Bridge being congested 13 hours per day between 6am and 7pm. Increased congestion and related pollution lowers quality of life for residents and workers, and increases costs to move goods and services.

The Port Mann/Highway 1 Project includes widening the highway, twinning the Port Mann Bridge, upgrading interchanges and improving access and safety on Highway 1 from the McGill interchange in Vancouver to 216th Street in Langley, a distance of approximately 37 kilometres. The benefits of the Program include:

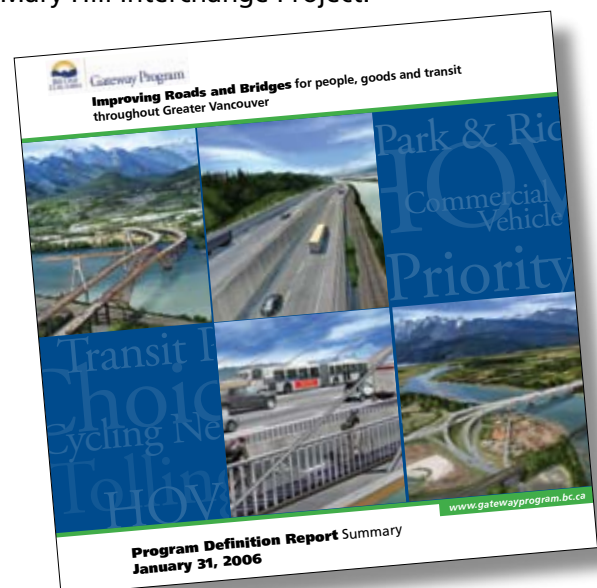
- **Address congestion** Gateway improvements will help relieve congestion at key bottlenecks to keep people and goods moving.
- **Improve the movement of people and goods in and through the region** Bring corridors to current design and safety standards, make merging safer and easier, and provide enhanced opportunities for transit and HOV service.
- **Improve access to key economic gateways** By improving links between ports, industrial areas, railways, airports and border crossings, Gateway road and bridge improvements will help Greater Vancouver to retain and increase its role as a critical North American gateway for international trade.
- **Improve the regional road network** By alleviating gridlock along major corridors, the proposed improvements will contribute to better overall traffic flow.
- **Improve quality of life** By relieving bottlenecks on major routes, Gateway road and bridge improvements will help keep regional traffic on regional roads instead of on local streets, improving quality of life in surrounding communities.
- **Reduce vehicle emissions** Gateway improvements will reduce emissions from congestion related idling.
- **Facilitate better connections to buses, SkyTrain, cycling and pedestrian networks** Each of the Gateway improvement projects includes cycling improvements. The Program is working with TransLink to find ways to make transit service more feasible, including transit priority to on-ramps, Park & Ride facilities and potential new and improved transit services, including bus service across the Port Mann Bridge.

PROGRAM DEFINITION REPORT

The Gateway Program was established by the Province of British Columbia in response to the impact of growing regional congestion, and to improve the movement of people, goods and transit throughout Greater Vancouver. Gateway roads and bridge improvements are proposed to complement other regional road and transit improvements already planned or underway. These proposed improvements will help create a comprehensive, effective transportation network that supports improved movement of people and goods, facilitates economic growth, increases transportation choice and provides better connections to designated population growth areas.

On January 31, 2006, The ministry of Transportation released the Program Definition Report (PDR) for the Gateway Program which:

- describes the causes and effects of road congestion in the Lower Mainland,
- provides a summary of the integrated response aimed at addressing the problems,
- provides a benefit-cost analysis which reinforces why the projects should proceed, and
- provides a summary of the specific improvements proposed for the three Gateway Projects: South Fraser Perimeter Road, Port Mann/Highway 1, and North Fraser Perimeter Road, including the Pitt River Bridge/ Mary Hill Interchange Project.



The PDR and supporting documentation is available on the Gateway Program website at www.gatewayprogram.bc.ca by clicking on the "What's New" section.

TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES

A key objective of the Gateway Program, and the Port Mann Highway 1 project in particular, is improving transportation choices, including enhanced transit opportunities.



Congestion at the Port Mann Bridge is currently a significant barrier to transit use. With queues to access Highway 1 spilling onto the local street network, reliable bus service is impossible for most of the day. TransLink has indicated a desire to run buses over the Port Mann Bridge, provided that a reliable schedule can be maintained. Congestion reduction measures proposed as part of the PMH1 pre-design concept will make reliable bus service possible.

In preliminary discussions with TransLink, several opportunities for other transit priority measures have been raised such as Park and Ride facilities at key interchanges in Surrey and Langley to further enhance ridership for transit services. The pre-design concept includes the construction of bridge foundations so it will be able to accommodate future light rail transit expansion across the twinned Port Mann Bridge.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The Port Mann Highway 1 project is subject to joint review under federal and provincial environmental assessment legislation. The BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) will lead the review.

Studies are underway in a number of areas including fish, wildlife and vegetation, hydrogeology, water quality, air quality and public health, noise, socio-community and socio-economic, agriculture, archaeology, and traffic. Studies will be included in the Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate and will be available on the Gateway Program and EAO websites when the Application is submitted. The formal project review will begin after the Application is submitted and the EAO will identify a public review and comment period. The submission of the Application, currently anticipated to be late 2006, and timing of the public comment period will be advertised.

Further information on the review process is available on the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) website at www.eao.gov.bc.ca.

TENTATIVE PROJECT SCHEDULE

The tentative Port Mann/Highway 1 project schedule is as follows:

Pre-design consultation	February to April 2006
Complete technical/ environmental studies	Fall 2006
Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate	Late 2006
Environmental assessment review and approval	Late 2006 – mid 2007
Design and Construction	2008 – 2013

Following environmental assessment certification and confirmation of project funding, the project will take about 4-5 years to construct.

UPDATE ON OTHER GATEWAY PROJECTS

In addition to Port Mann Highway 1, proposed Gateway Projects include:

- **The South Fraser Perimeter Road** is primarily a new, four-lane, 80 km/h route along the south side of the Fraser River extending from Deltaport Way to the Golden Ears Bridge Connector Road in Surrey. Pre-design consultation has been undertaken on the Southwest Delta and 80th to Nordel segments. Pre-design consultation will be undertaken on the realigned north and south options in Southwest Delta in April/May of 2006 and on the Nordel to 176th Street segment in May/June 2006.
- **The North Fraser Perimeter Road** is a set of proposed improvements to existing roads along the north side of the Fraser River between the Queensborough Bridge and the Golden Ears Bridge. TransLink is responsible for the section from the Queensborough Bridge to King Edward Street in Coquitlam and the Gateway Program for the section from King Edward Street to Maple Meadows Way in Maple Ridge, including the stand-alone Pitt River Bridge/Mary Hill Interchange Project.
- Pre-design consultation for the **Pitt River Bridge and Mary Hill Interchange Project** took place in May and June 2005 and a *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* screening application was submitted in July 2005. The project will be built through a Design/Build procurement model and a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify companies capable of undertaking the project was issued on February 22, 2006. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in late 2008. Gateway continues to liaise with municipal staffs and TransLink regarding improvement options and planned transit services along the NFPR corridor.

Additional information on the Gateway Program, including more detailed information on the Port Mann Highway 1 project pre-design consultation program, is available on the Gateway Program website at www.gatewayprogram.bc.ca.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Gateway Program has an ongoing community relations program. If you want to learn more about the projects, provide input or simply have your name added to our information update list to receive future community updates and information about future consultation, please call our Program Information Line at 604-456-2420.

Community Updates will be produced regularly to keep the public informed about important developments and to encourage two-way communication between interested parties and the project team. This issue of the Community Update contains important information about the Port Mann/Highway 1 project.

We look forward to discussing the proposed Port Mann/Highway 1 project with you as planning and development progress. The Gateway Program is committed to ensuring that community objectives are considered in developing this important transportation corridor.

CONTACT US

Your feedback is important to us. If you have questions or comments, we want to hear from you. You can:

- Email your comments to info@gatewayprogram.bc.ca
- Phone our info line at **604-456-2420**
- Fax us at **604-439-2585**

We look forward to hearing from you.

