



NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Transportation

SOUTH FRASER PERIMETER ROAD ALIGNMENT CHOSEN

VICTORIA – The Gateway Program will proceed with a southern alignment for the southwest Delta segment of the South Fraser Perimeter Road, announced Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon today.

“We are committed to undertaking an extensive consultation process on all of our major projects,” said Falcon. “That’s why we went to the community with two options to ensure that we got their feedback and their voices were heard. The south option was the clear preference.”

The southern alignment will move truck traffic away from Ladner, minimizing noise, visual and other impacts in residential areas. The southern alignment will also redirect more trucks and ferry traffic away from Ladner Trunk Road and the existing Highway 17, resulting in greater separation of local and regional traffic. It will result in greater safety benefits and better local traffic circulation.

The northern alignment, the other proposed route under consideration, would have preserved 17 hectares of agricultural land. To help balance the effects on agriculture, the ministry will be meeting with the Delta Farmers’ Institute to develop a strategy that enhance the area’s agricultural productivity. A previous alignment option which included an upgraded Highway 17 was eliminated following the first round of pre-design consultations in February 2005.

The South Fraser Perimeter Road will enter environmental assessment review this summer. The assessment includes impact studies such as local and regional noise, socio-community, agriculture, and air quality. The environmental assessment will also include additional opportunities for public comment.

“The South Fraser Perimeter Road will be a key economic corridor,” said Falcon. “It will provide a much needed, continuous and efficient route for the freight and service industry as well as commuters.”

The Gateway Program is the Ministry of Transportation’s plan to meet the needs of B.C.’s growing economy, increasing Asia-Pacific trade, and a growing population. There are three major projects within the program: The North Fraser Perimeter Road project, the South Fraser Perimeter Road project and the Port Mann Bridge/Highway 1 project.

Additional information about the Gateway Program can be found at www.gatewayprogram.bc.ca.

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Media Mike Long
contact: Communications Director
 Ministry of Transportation
 250 387-7787

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