



## Council Gives Approval-in-Principle to Replace Johnson Street Bridge

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — This morning, Victoria City Council gave approval-in-principle to replace the 85 year old Johnson Street Bridge.

"Today's decision is an exciting first step that will significantly improve a vital transportation corridor to downtown," said Mayor Dean Fortin. "There is a tremendous amount of work ahead and we will continue to make thoughtful, prudent decisions as we proceed through this process."

After a detailed presentation by City Engineering staff and Delcan engineering consultants, and lengthy discussion by Council, an approval-in-principle to proceed with replacement of the bridge was made. Staff will now complete detailed transportation designs to identify opportunities to improve approaches to the bridge, increase opportunities for pedestrian, cycle and rail traffic, and develop costing models to be "shovel ready" for federal and provincial infrastructure grant opportunities.

Three weeks ago, the preliminary results of an overall condition assessment of the Johnson Street Bridge were presented to Council, signalling the urgent need to invest in rehabilitation or replacement of the aging bridge. An extensive review of the electrical, mechanical, structural and seismic conditions of the bridge was conducted over the past eight months resulting in an overall poor rating.

The Johnson Street Bridge was designed under the direction of Mr. F. M. Preston, a City engineer in 1920 and opened to the public in January 1924. Nicknamed "Big Blue" due to its distinctive blue paint colour, it is a Bascule-type bridge in which one end rises while a counter weight lowers on the opposite end. Over 30,000 vehicles travel over the bridge each day as well as thousands of pedestrian and cycling commuters.

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**For More Information:**

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