



City Announces Citizen Advisory Committee and Engineering Firm to Oversee Bridge Replacement

Date: Friday, July 24, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Today seven residents of Greater Victoria were named to the Johnson Street Bridge Citizen Advisory Committee and City Council awarded the Owner's Representative contract to *MMM Group Limited* to project manage the replacement of the 85 year old bascule bridge.

"The Citizen Advisory Committee will provide insight and advice on what will be one of the most important Victoria landmarks of this century – a signature project for BC's Capital City. Our community wants a bridge that is distinctive and fitting of Victoria's character, is safe and functional, and is sustainable for future generations," noted Mayor Dean Fortin. "We continue to position ourselves to be ready for stimulus funding and to deliver the bridge by March 31, 2011."

The advisory committee includes urban designers Sid Chow and Jim Kerr, cycling and pedestrian consultant David Cubberley, heritage expert Richard Linzey, sustainability specialist Allison Ashcroft, community representatives; former judge David Vickers and developer Joe Van Belleghem. The first meeting of the committee was held this morning and was chaired by City Manager Gail Stephens.

Valued at \$3.2 million, the engineering firm *MMM Group Limited* was awarded the contract to project manage the bridge replacement project at a Special Council meeting this afternoon. *MMM Group* provides engineering expertise in managing bridge construction, with previous experience designing and managing completion of 12 moving bridges. In addition to engineering expertise, consultants include an architectural and sustainability design team. A focus on sustainability and design components early in the process will provide greater certainty and reduced risk to the project.

"The bridge is a symbol of both form and function and requires a proven firm that is familiar with successfully delivering design-build projects and in particular moving bridges," added Fortin. "The submission by *MMM Group* demonstrates an extensive breadth of knowledge and experience in bridge construction and brings a focus on sustainability and aesthetic that is extremely important to this Council and to this community,"

Mayor Fortin added, "The bridge is an essential transportation route to downtown and is our top infrastructure priority. We are relying on investment by senior levels of government to ensure this project is affordable to residents and businesses, enhances alternative transportation options and improves the bridge's safety and resiliency to serve the Capital Region for the next 100 years."

Completed over the past year, a comprehensive engineering assessment of the 85 year old Johnson Street Bridge identified extensive corrosion in steel structural beams, obsolete mechanical and electrical systems and significant seismic vulnerability. Substantial investment is required in the bridge within two years to avoid further deterioration and increasing operational costs.

In April 2009, City Council approved replacement-in-principle for an estimated \$63 million, providing another 100 years of use and vastly improving transportation options and road approaches to the bridge.

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BACKGROUNDER ATTACHED

For More Information:

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CITY OF VICTORIA

Backgrounder

Seven Greater Victoria residents compose the Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Citizen Advisory Committee. Biographies are available upon request.

Bike / Pedestrian:

David Cubberley

Contact: 250.727.6441

Urban Designers:

Sid Chow

Contact: 250.472.8013

Jim Kerr

Contact: 250.480.7811

Heritage:

Richard Linzey

Contact: 250.356.1434

Sustainability:

Allison Ashcroft

Contact: 250.507.4444

Community:

Joe Van Belleghem

Contact: 250.592.6769

David Vickers

Contact: 250.382.2642

*Engineering firm **MMM Group Limited** was awarded Owner's Representative contract to manage Johnson Street Bridge Replacement Project.*

- Value of contract \$3.2 million
- Canadian company with over 1,700 personnel
- Will establish office in Victoria
- *MMM Group Limited* website www.mmm.ca
- Experience managing and designing 12 moveable bridge projects
- Previous bridge projects www.mmm.ca/projects/Projects.aspx
- Contract includes sustainability and architectural design team