CITY OF
VICTORIA

Council Proceeds to Referendum to Replace

Johnson Street Bridge

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VICTORIA, BC — Victoria City Council has decided to proceed to a referendum on borrowing up to $49.2 million to replace the 86-year old Johnson Street Bridge.

"I am pleased that so many people from our community took the time to provide their thoughts and opinions on this important project," said Mayor Dean Fortin. "The community has provided us with a clear preference for replacement, and now it is my hope we can move forward towards a successful referendum for borrowing in the Fall."

Informed by extensive public input, from more than 2,600 Victoria households, and a representative Ipsos-Reid telephone survey of residents and businesses, a clear preference for replacement was indicated. The results of the Ipsos-Reid survey indicated 64% of Victoria residents preferred replacement compared to 29% for rehabilitation. A survey of business returned a preference of over 3:1 for replacement over rehabilitation.

The total project cost for a replacement bridge is estimated at $77 million and has a federal contribution commitment for $21 million. The City has reprioritized other budgetary expenditures to take advantage of the bridge construction period, which further reduces the funds needed to borrow.

The new bridge includes on-road bicycle lanes, a multi-use path, a dedicated pedestrian walkway on the south side, improved road approaches, a connection to a future harbour pathway, widened marine channel, and improved connections to the Galloping Goose and E & N trails.

A borrowing bylaw will be given three readings at a special Council meeting tomorrow, Friday, August 13 at 2:30 p.m. Subject to approval by the Inspector of Municipalities, the borrowing bylaw will be taken to a referendum on Saturday, November 20, 2010.

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The results of the Ipsos Reid survey are available at: www.johnsonstreetbridge.com

For More Information:

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