VICTORIA, BC – The dismantling of the Johnson Street Rail Bridge and 500 tonne counterweight will take place from Wednesday, February 22 to Saturday, February 25.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

What: Engineers Describe Rail Bridge Removal Process
When: Wednesday, February 22 from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Where: Johnson Street Bridge Construction Site – 203 Harbour Road, Building #1

City staff along with the lead contractor Ruskin Construction Ltd. will be available for comment on the technical aspects involved with removing the rail bridge and 500 tonne counterweight. Media will also get a close up look at the largest single-lift crane barge in Western Canada.

Media are asked to park in the parking bays on the east side of Harbour Road. Please walk down and meet with staff at 203 Harbour Road in front of Building #1.

The site is an active construction zone. Safety vests will be provided for media prior to entering the project site. For safety reasons, media are asked to stay with staff at all times. **There will be no media or public access to the site on Friday, February 24 due to safety considerations.**

**Background Information**

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, February 22, the largest single-lift crane barge in Western Canada will arrive from Vancouver in preparation for the rail bridge removal. Measuring 100 metres long by 30 metres wide, the barge will fill the entire navigation channel underneath the bridge.

Dismantling of electrical and mechanical systems will take place on Wednesday, February 22 and Thursday, February 23.

On Friday, February 24, the rail bridge will be lifted from its foundation and lowered onto the barge. For public and worker safety, the Johnson Street Bridge will be closed to all vehicle, cyclist and pedestrian traffic for approximately 30 minutes while this work is underway. Public works staff and VicPD will be on site to divert traffic away from the bridge.
Traffic and Noise Impacts
The navigation channel will be closed to all marine traffic beginning Wednesday, February 22 at midnight. It will re-open to marine traffic Saturday, February 25 at 6 a.m.

The road bridge will remain open to vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians throughout most of the work, but traffic will be temporarily reduced to two lanes (one in each direction) to accommodate work on the bridge. Commuters are advised to expect delays.

The bridge will be closed to all vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians:

- Wednesday, February 22 from midnight to 6 a.m.
- Friday, February 24 for rail removal by crane (30 minute closure, specific time TBA)
- Saturday, February 25 from midnight to 6 a.m.

Residents and businesses located near the bridge are advised to expect some noise related to the rail bridge removal:

- Late Tuesday night (early Wednesday) between midnight and 5 a.m. as the barge arrives and anchors are lowered. The noise is about 60 decibels (volume of two people talking or a truck idling).
- Late Friday (early Saturday) between midnight and 5 a.m. as the barge pulls up its anchors and departs the harbour.
- Some noise may also be noticeable during the day.

Once the rail bridge is removed, it will go to a local business in the Upper Harbour for recycling.

The project webcam will be capturing live coverage. The public is encouraged to visit www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com to check out the webcam.

For More Information:
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