VICTORIA, BC — Bridge work in the harbour will become much more visible over the coming weeks as crews install large concrete sections of the new Johnson Street Bridge. Once in place, the concrete spans will form the road approaches to the new steel structure, due to arrive in the summer of 2016 with the bridge opening to the public in the summer of 2017.

The large concrete sections arrived by barge this week and will be installed by the same large barge and crane, the Arctic Tuk, that performed the removal of the rail span in 2012.

To accommodate the work, the marine channel under the Johnson Street Bridge will be closed to all marine traffic from Monday, September 14 to Friday September 18. This closure includes all vessels including industrial and commercial vessels, and smaller boats such as sailboats, canoes, and kayaks.

On Monday, September 14, from approximately 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Johnson Street Bridge will be closed to all pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles to allow a final piece of the rail span to be removed and a section of the new bridge installed in its place. This work must be completed during the highest tide of the day to allow equipment to get as close to the work site as possible.

Traffic control will be in place and crews will work as quickly as they can to complete the work, however travellers can expect up to a one hour bridge closure and are advised to plan alternate routes during this time. Periodic traffic delays throughout the week are expected as some short term bridge lifts may be required to accommodate the work.

The City and contractor have worked to reduce impacts to day-to-day operations in the upper harbour and an emergency plan is in place to ensure that the marine channel can be opened in the event of an emergency.

Citizens wishing to view the harbour activity can get the best view from the north east side of the bridge near Canoe Club or online on the project webcam.

For more information and to view the webcam, visit www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com

For More Information:

Katie Hamilton
Director, Citizen Engagement and Strategic Planning
Office: 250.361.0210 Cellular: 250.217.8343

Note to editors: Photo of large concrete spans attached.