



Point Ellice Bridge Construction Starts in May

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Comprehensive upgrades to the Point Ellice (Bay Street) Bridge will start later this month to ensure it serves the community for decades to come.

The contract has been awarded to Seismic 2000 and work is expected to be completed in late 2019. The project budget is \$6.1 million with the Federal and Provincial governments contributing a combined \$2.4 million in infrastructure funding.

In order to complete the necessary upgrades on the Point Ellice Bridge, the eastbound lane across the bridge (towards downtown) will be closed between mid-May and approximately the end of October. Multiple options for managing traffic were explored and this eastbound Bay Street closure provides the lowest impacts on traffic flow, minimizes impacts to BC Transit, maintains access to Victoria West, and also provides predictability to the travelling public. Changes will be made to traffic signal operations at the adjacent Johnson Street Bridge to help accommodate the increased traffic.

Pedestrian and wheelchair access will be maintained along the north sidewalk at all times during the project and eastbound cyclists must dismount and walk their bikes across with pedestrians. Emergency services have been consulted as part of the traffic management process to minimize disruptions to service and BC Transit has already rerouted bus service. Full bridge closures will still be necessary on rare occasions during the project and will be communicated as information becomes available.

The work Seismic 2000 will be completing includes repairs to the concrete deck, rust protection of the steel, resurfacing the bridge deck and stripping and painting the steel on the underside of the bridge. The existing Point Ellice Bridge superstructure was constructed in 1956–57 and received a seismic upgrade in 2001–2002, which included reinforcement of the piers, replacement of bridge components, and work to resurface the roadway across the bridge surface.

The public is advised to use caution while travelling near the construction zone and obey all signage. Local access will be maintained adjacent to the bridge to businesses and homes in the area and the City and its contractor will work to minimize disruptions during the course of the project.

For more information and updates about the Point Ellice Bridge Rehabilitation Project visit: victoria.ca/pointellicebridge.

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