

SOUTH FRASER PERIMETER ROAD PROJECT

COMMUNITY UPDATE

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – WHAT'S UNDER WAY



Preloading, Utility Relocations and Environmental Enhancements

Construction began in 2008 and continues with preloading of soft soil areas, utility relocation and environmental enhancement projects such as new fisheries habitat areas.

Highway 17/Deltaport Way Interchange

In preparation for construction of the interchange, preliminary ground improvements are being completed in Southwest Delta. Construction of the overpass has begun with the approach fills (preload) now in place. Construction of bridge structures will begin this fall.

Rail Overpasses at 36th Avenue and 64th Street

Ground improvements were completed and the overpass approach fills (preload) are in place. Construction of the rail overpasses will begin this fall. These two overpasses will allow farm vehicles and emergency vehicles to travel safely over the rail tracks and the South Fraser Perimeter Road without interruption or delay.

Overpass at 28th Avenue

The Ministry has been working with Port Metro Vancouver, the Corporation of Delta, and BC Rail towards safety improvements along the Roberts Bank Rail Corridor. To improve safety, the 57B rail crossing will be closed. A new single-lane agricultural traffic overpass will be constructed over Highway 17 at 28th Avenue. This overpass will provide a key link for agricultural, pedestrian, cycling and equestrian traffic, and emergency vehicles. Ground improvements are under way with construction of the overpass beginning in early fall. The overpass is anticipated to be complete in 2011.



WHAT IS SFPR?

South Fraser Perimeter Road Project (SFPR) is a new 40-kilometre, four-lane expressway, along the south side of the Fraser River. This efficient, 80km/hr route will extend from Deltaport Way to 176th Street (Highway 15) in Surrey, with connections to Highway 1, 91, 99 and to TransLink's new Golden Ears Bridge.

BENEFITS OF SFPR

- Less time spent in traffic – with travel time savings of up to one third
- Travel time from Delta to Highway 1, Langley and Maple Ridge less than 30 minutes
- More than 80% reduction in traffic on River Road in North Delta residential community
- More than 70% reduction in traffic on River Road in Sunbury and Tilbury
- Improved commercial/industrial development opportunities
- Less ferry traffic on Highway 17 through Ladner
- Less Deltaport traffic on Highway 17 through Ladner
- 7,000 long-term jobs in Delta and Surrey

PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – WHAT'S COMING UP

Construction Activities

Over the next few months, various construction activities will continue to take place throughout the corridor such as preloading, utility relocation and environmental enhancements.

In the spring of 2011, construction will become more evident as the contractor takes advantage of the spring and summer months. The project team will be providing advanced information to the public on particular areas of construction and the activity that will be taking place. These communications will be through community updates, ads in the local newspapers and postings to the website.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

As part of the SFPR project, environmental enhancement projects are being constructed to improve fisheries and wildlife habitat. After completion of SFPR, long-term monitoring of the enhancement locations will be in place.

Alex Fraser Tidal Wetlands

A new wetland was constructed near the Alex Fraser Bridge. This new, high-value habitat will provide a nursery and rearing home for young salmon and other fish. Aquatic insects, an important food supply for fish and birds, will also use this habitat. The habitat value will continue to increase as additional native shrubs and trees are planted over this coming fall and winter.



Manson Canal Tidal Wetland

Where Manson Canal meets the Fraser River at Tannery Park in Surrey, the area had low environmental values. In cooperation with Musqueam First Nations, a cattail marsh was constructed that has increased the environmental value and provides habitat for baby salmon and other fish. This area will now also benefit many native plants and animals.

Crescent Slough Riparian Restoration

Past flood control and agricultural development have resulted in the loss of natural tidal flow from the Fraser River into Crescent Slough, causing a negative impact. As part of SFPR's drainage improvement plans, connectivity will be restored to the northern and southern portions of the slough and channels will be returned to a more natural shape.

Restoration work began in the fall of 2009. The restoration area is more than one kilometre alongside the slough. It will include the planting of native shrubs and trees on both sides of the slough channel. Additional wildlife habitat enhancement features will also be included, such as placement of large woody debris, and construction of seasonal ponds as breeding habitat for native amphibians. Restoration work will continue through 2012.

