

## Newly-opened West Vancouver section completes 12km of improved highway

*see inside.*



## No more scheduled closures as the project approaches completion

**With major construction now complete, the remaining work should be closure-free.** Travellers, however, should still plan for occasional delays. If a closure is needed, two weeks' notice will be given via the weekly traffic schedule posted every Friday on the project website, [www.seatoskyimprovements.ca](http://www.seatoskyimprovements.ca).

Construction-related traffic delays will be coordinated so that total delays are no more than 30 minutes between West Vancouver and Squamish and between Squamish and Function Junction, and no more than 45 minutes between West Vancouver and Function Junction except on weekends and during peak travel hours, when delays are less than 5 minutes in any location.

For an overview of this traffic schedule and current traffic information, please visit "Closures and Delays Schedule" at [www.seatoskyimprovements.ca](http://www.seatoskyimprovements.ca) or call 1-877-4SAFE99 (1-877-472-3399) toll-free and speak to an operator 24/7.

## Newly-opened West Vancouver section

The completion and opening of the new highway section in West Vancouver from Eagleridge Interchange on the south to the North Junction, signals that the project is nearing the end of construction. This new section connects with the improvements from Ansell Place to Lions Bay, creating 12 km of improved highway from West Vancouver to Lions Bay.

The segment has improved sightlines, widened paved shoulders to accommodate cyclists and emergency pull-offs. Centre median barriers prevent head-on collisions. Additional safety improvements include the use of highly reflective pavement markings, representing the most advanced technology and highest safety standards available in highway markings. Drivers are warned if they are out of their lane with rumblestrips.

At the North Junction, a new one-lane 'fly-over', will safely allow northbound traffic from Horseshoe Bay or the BC Ferry Terminal to join the Sea-to-Sky Highway. The flyover abutments utilize mechanically stabilized earth wall (MSE) construction and the length of the span on its longest curve is 31.4 metres. In engineering terms, this is called a "twin-cell cast-in-place concrete post-tensioned trapezoidal box girder." Most bridge construction requires immense concrete girders which are lowered into place with heavy-lift cranes, and then decked.

In addition to the highway improvements, the project implemented an environmental mitigation and enhancement program. Benefits in the West Vancouver section include the contribution of \$190,000 funding to the District of West Vancouver in a collaborative effort to improve the Nelson Canyon, Whyte Lake, Black Mountain circle hiking trail route. The package included trail head parking and trail reconstruction, boardwalk construction, a wooden foot bridge over Nelson Creek, trail routing signage, bear-proof garbage containers and an interpretive kiosk.

**Photos: Views of the recently-opened section from Eagleridge Interchange to the North Junction.** This new 4.6km section of four-lane divided highway reduces congestion and improves reliability on a highly-travelled, multi-destination section of the route. It safely separates traffic heading to Sea-to-Sky country, BC Ferries, Horseshoe Bay Village or Eagleridge Drive. As well, the new section moves up to 13,000 vehicles per day away from Gleneagles Elementary School.



## Construction nears completion with only three work zones remaining

With the completion of the highway from West Vancouver to Lions Bay there are now only three ongoing construction zones on the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project.

### Lions Bay to Doodson's corner

Work in this section is nearing substantial completion which is when the new highway lanes are fully open with occasional lane closures for finishing work like landscaping. The final (top) layer of pavement needs warm temperatures before it can be put down this summer.

### Squamish

Work continues on the Stawamus bridge approaches and at Squamish intersections. Like in Lions Bay the top lift of pavement will be applied this summer.

### South of Whistler

This is the longest of the three remaining work zones however most of the difficult work is now complete. Some shifting of traffic will be needed as base lift and top lift of pavement still needs to be done along much of the highway.

— Completed  
 ..... Not Completed



# First Nations participation contributes to project success



"Peter Kiewit Sons have found that partnering with First Nations has been an effective method of securing working relationships on a range of construction projects," says Troy Van Bostelen, Kiewit's First Nations business coordinator. He points to the Diavik Diamond mine in the Northwest Territories, the Garden River Highway in northern Ontario and Voisey's Bay nickel mine in Newfoundland as examples of successful First Nations partnerships and employment

agreements. With the Sea-to-Sky project running through the traditional territories of the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations Kiewit recognized the need to involve these communities.

Van Bostelen's responsibilities on the Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project include identifying employment and business opportunities for the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations during the construction phase of the project. "As part of our agreement with the Province, we approached each First Nation to establish employment goals for their members and to offer effective on-the-job-training," he says. "At this time, the actual employment levels achieved are nearly double what the original targets were set at. An added benefit is that we have seen these individuals succeed on a personal and professional level and many of them are becoming leaders within our organization."

Van Bostelen credits the senior segment managers at the start of the job for the success of the First Nations involvement. He also credits the First Nation communities for seizing the opportunities afforded by the project. "They really stepped up to the plate and contributed to the success of the project. At the end of the day it is my sincere hope that the individuals involved bring a sense of pride and accomplishment back into their homes."

## Segment Managers who made a difference

**Brad Mytko** has a long history working with First Nations, and was instrumental in setting up the Lil'wat Concrete and Aggregate partnership.

**Ryan Tones**, had the most First Nations employees and has shown an enormous commitment to the community while working in culturally sensitive areas.

**Felix Cirelli** worked on previous successful Kiewit/First Nations joint ventures and understands the benefits that Peter Kiewit Sons realizes from employing and training people from these communities.

**Chris Dandurand** ensured that the spin-offs that come from having a large office and construction complex have benefited the community.

The initial commitment passed to new managers Rick Berg, Tim Huffman and Grayson Doyle. But, the dedication of superintendents like Ken Hall, Mario Plante and Jay Richley made it happen.

## Project Fast Facts

*Construction facts (as of March 30, 2009)*

- 71** The number kilometres of new passing lanes constructed/nearly complete along the corridor.
- 42** The number of bridges and downslope structures completed
- 63,950** The number of square metres of new mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls constructed along the corridor.
- 3,782,600** The number of cubic metres (including 2,121,000 cubic metres of rock) of excavated material along the corridor.
- 347,540** The number of tonnes of asphalt paving along the corridor
- 59,389** The number of cubic metres of concrete used along the corridor

### For further information:

#### Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project Community Relations

**Vancouver** Suite 2006 – 1111 West Georgia Street, B.C. V6E 4M3 Phone: 604-775-1104 Email: info@seatoskyimprovements.ca

**Squamish** #103 – 42000 Loggers Lane, Squamish, B.C. V8B 0H3 Phone: 604-898-2146 Email: bianca.peters@gov.bc.ca

**Whistler** Unit 3B – 4122 Village Green, Whistler, B.C. V0N 1B4 Phone: 604-932-0712 Email: scott.roberts@gov.bc.ca

#### Construction Delay or Closure Information:

[www.seatoskyimprovements.ca](http://www.seatoskyimprovements.ca) 1-877- 4SAFE 99 (1-877- 472-3399)

