

INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL REVIEW  
GEORGE MASSEY CROSSING

Terms of Reference – Nov. 1, 2017

## **Background**

The George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project has been in pre-development, planning and procurement since 2012. Questions have been raised about the proposed bridge option, such as: how the improvements fit within the regional context; the need for 10-lane capacity; tunnel vs. bridge; magnitude of connecting infrastructure, etc. Public comments have been made about environmental, agricultural, port marine/truck impacts and imperatives and the need to ensure George Massey traffic modelling aligns with broader regional models.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is proceeding with an independent technical review of the George Massey corridor. The review will focus on what level of improvement is needed in the context of regional and provincial transportation planning, growth and vision.

While this review is underway, the Province will engage with mayors from Metro Vancouver to gather their perspectives on the project, and to ensure that any plan for this crossing reflects their ideas and fits into the overall vision for the region.

## **Terms of Reference**

The timeline for the independent review is expected to be six months.

The review will include the following:

- 1. Review the technical objectives for George Massey crossing improvements;**
- 2. Review the analysis and assumptions made for the Project;**
- 3. Review and analyze previous information collected on considerations such as environmental, agricultural and port-related traffic (e.g., marine, trucks);**
- 4. Undertake a technical review of safety, seismic and congestion issues for George Massey Tunnel;**
- 5. Review the costs and technical requirements of a tunnel versus a bridge;**
- 6. Identify improvements necessary to address safety, seismic and current congestion issues, including any technology limitations;**
- 7. Review traffic models and, with TransLink, determine regional traffic model to be used for George Massey and other future regional traffic demand analysis;**
- 8. Use the outputs from provincial, regional and local transportation planning and regional traffic modelling to validate the future traffic demand for the George Massey crossing;**

**9. Identify George Massey improvement options that meet technical objectives, including the size and capacity of the infrastructure, scope and cost.**

The review is not a reconsideration of decisions made by the environmental assessment process, the Agricultural Land Commission review or by other statutory decision makers.

The independent review lead must submit to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure a report by Spring 2018.

**Resources**

The lead will draw from the technical information developed by the Province and from Metro Vancouver municipalities. The lead may also obtain expert advice and analysis on any subject related to the review, which may include highway infrastructure design and construction, transportation planning and traffic engineering. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff will be available to support the review in ensuring procurement of independent expert advice.