

Summary of Engagement

FRASER RIVER TUNNEL PROJECT

JULY 11, 2022

Pursuant to Section 13.5 of the Environmental Assessment Act, S.B.C. 2018, c.51



EAO

Environmental
Assessment Office

Contents

What is the Fraser River Tunnel Project?	3
Process Overview	3
Summary of this Report	4
What We Asked	4
How We Engaged	4
Who We Heard From and What We Heard	5
Participating Indigenous Nations	5
Role of Participating Indigenous Nations.....	6
Developing an Understanding of Interests	7
Integrating Input into the Detailed Project Description	7
Public.....	10
Technical Advisors.....	12
Conclusion and Next Steps	14
Appendix 1 – List of Technical Advisors	16

List of Tables

Table 1 - Notified Indigenous nations.....	6
Table 2 - Participating Indigenous nations to-date.....	6
Table 3 - Indigenous Interests and Project Concerns	10
Table 4 – Summary of public comments received.....	12
Table 5 - Technical Advisor Input.....	14

List of Figures

Figure 1- EA process and key documents	3
Figure 2- Potential inputs considered when developing an understanding of a participating Indigenous Nation's interests..7	

WHAT IS THE FRASER RIVER TUNNEL PROJECT?

Transportation and Investment Corporation (TIC) on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure proposes to build the Fraser River Tunnel Project (the Project), an eight-lane immersed tube tunnel (ITT) that will replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99 in Metro Vancouver. Two of the eight lanes will be dedicated to bus rapid transit and there will be separated pathways for cyclists and pedestrians. Highway 99 is a key connection for communities on both sides of the Fraser River and a trade route.

For more information, visit the Environmental Assessment Office's [project page](#).

PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Fraser River Tunnel Project is being reviewed by the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) under the 2018 *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). After receiving the Initial Project Description (IPD) and Engagement Plan (EP) for the Project, the EAO issued an order under Section 13(3)(a) of the Act on April 11, 2022, formally starting the Early Engagement phase. This Summary of Engagement, along with the upcoming Detailed Project Description, will be provided to the EAO's Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO) to inform the Readiness Decision to either:

- proceed to an environmental assessment (EA);
- require a revised Detailed Project Description;
- exempt the project from an EA; or
- terminate the project from the EA process.

Figure 1 below provides an overview of the EA process and key documents, including the Summary of Engagement. For more information on the Early Engagement phase, the EAO's Summary of Engagement, and the Readiness Decision, please see EAO guidance materials available from: [2018 Act Guidance Documents](#).

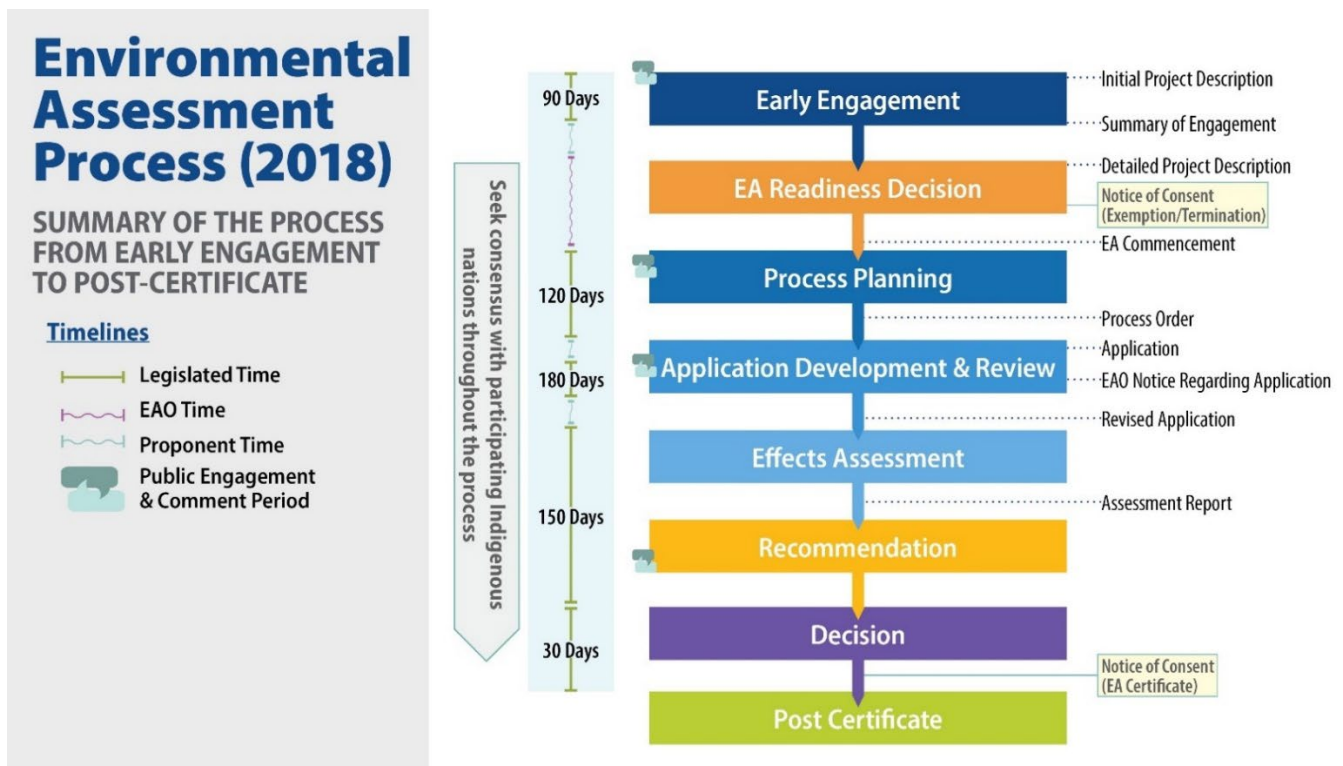


Figure 1- EA process and key documents

SUMMARY OF THIS REPORT

On April 11, 2022, TIC submitted the Initial Project Description (IPD) and Engagement Plan (EP) for the Fraser River Tunnel Project, starting the Early Engagement phase. The EAO held a public comment period asking for feedback on the IPD and EP from April 25, 2022, to June 9, 2022, and engaged potentially affected Indigenous nations, as well as local, provincial, and federal agencies. This Summary of Engagement shares information about Early Engagement and the public comment period, the feedback we received, and the next steps in the process.

To date, ten Indigenous nations have expressed interests in the project area and have identified as participating Indigenous nations. The EAO received 119 individual comments through the public comment period and received input from technical advisors on key issues and concerns.

This Summary of Engagement includes:

- a list of participating Indigenous nations who have provided notice under Section 14(1) of the Act;
- a preliminary summary of participating Indigenous nations' preliminary interests in the project area;
- a summary of comments received during the public comment and engagement period;
- input received from technical advisors; and
- information and engagement requirements for the Detailed Project Description.

The purpose of this report is to help inform TIC's development of the Detailed Project Description by providing a summary of comments received during the Early Engagement phase and to provide a list of participating Indigenous nations. This is required by Sections 13(5)(a) and (b) the Act. The EAO expects that TIC will utilize all the information received during Early Engagement, including the Summary of Engagement and detailed comments from participants to consider and address this information, as appropriate, in a Detailed Project Description and to inform subsequent phases of the EA, if it proceeds.

WHAT WE ASKED

The EAO asked for feedback from the public, potentially affected Indigenous nations, and technical advisors from provincial and federal government agencies, and local governments to understand and gather information on:

- the preferred means of engagement and
- initial interests, concerns, questions, feedback, and knowledge regarding the Fraser River Tunnel Project.

HOW WE ENGAGED

The EAO wrote to potentially affected Indigenous nations, had meetings and teleconferences with Indigenous nations and technical advisors, held a public comment period and accepted public comments through the EAO's Electronic Project Information Centre (EPIC) website and by mail. The EAO also held two in-person open houses in Delta and Richmond on May 10 and May 11, 2022, and two virtual information sessions on Zoom on May 17 and May 19, 2022.

The EAO tweeted on its corporate account and announced on EPIC that the public comment period commenced on April 25, 2022. TIC was directed to advertise the public comment period in the following media outlets:

- Vancouver Sun,
- The Province,
- Delta Optimist,
- Peace Arch News,
- Richmond News,
- Surrey Now Leader
- The Filipino Post,
- Sing Tao,
- Indo-Canadian Awaaz,
- Indo-Canadian Voice,
- Ming Pao,
- Punjab Guardian, and;
- Canadian Punjab Times.

The public comment period was also advertised in Punjabi, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

WHO WE HEARD FROM AND WHAT WE HEARD

Participating Indigenous Nations

An Indigenous nation may provide notice to the CEAO that it intends to participate in the assessment of a project up to the issuance of the Process Order at the end of the Process Planning phase. Alternatively, an Indigenous nation may choose to refrain from identifying as a participating Indigenous nation under the Act. In each of these cases, the EAO must still fulfill its constitutional obligations to these Indigenous nations and will continue to engage with the Nations according to these obligations.

On April 14th, 2022, the EAO notified the following Indigenous nations regarding approval of the IPD and EP and the start of the Early Engagement phase:

BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin) First Nation	Snuneymuxw First Nation
Cowichan Tribes	Spune'luxutth (Penelakut) Tribe
kʷikʷə́łəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation	Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island) First Nation
Leq'á:mel First Nation	Stz'uminus First Nation
Lyackson First Nation	səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation
Matsqui First Nation	Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Nation (Squamish)
qícəy (Katzie) First Nation	SṪÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation
qʷɑ:ńłəń (Kwantlen) First Nation	Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation (Lake Cowichan)
S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aitchelitz First Nation, • Chawathil First Nation, • Cheam First Nation, • Kwaw'Kwaw'Apilt First Nation, • Semá:th (Sumas) First Nation, • Shxwhá:y Village, • Skwah First Nation, • Skowkale First Nation, • Soowahlie First Nation, • Sq'ewá:lxw (Skawahlook) First Nation, • Sq'ewlets (Scowlitz) First Nation, • Squiala First Nation, • Tzeachten First Nation, • Yakweakwoose First Nation, and; • Yale First Nation. 	WJJOŁŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation

sćəwaθəŋ məsteyəx ^w (Tsawwassen) First Nation	W̱SIḴEM (Tseycum) First Nation
SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) First Nation	Xeláltxw (Halalt) First Nation
Shxw'ōwhámél (Shxw'ow'hamel) First Nation	x ^w məθk ^w əyám (Musqueam Indian Band)

Table 1 - Notified Indigenous nations

The EAO reached out to these Nations based on the EAO's understanding at the onset of Early Engagement of known traditional territories that overlap with the Fraser River Tunnel Project area, asserted rights in the Fraser River Tunnel Project area, as well as past and current use of the Fraser River Tunnel Project area. These Nations were invited to participate during the Early Engagement phase and provided information regarding self-identification as a participating Indigenous nation.

Table 1 below provides the list of participating Indigenous nations for the Fraser River Tunnel Project to-date. Additional Nations will likely be added later in the process, up until the issuance of the Process Order. Some Nations have expressed an interest in being a participating Indigenous nation but have not yet formally notified the EAO to-date.

Leq'a:mel First Nation	Snuneymuxw First Nation
x ^w məθk ^w əyám (Musqueam)	sćəwaθəŋ məsteyəx ^w (Tsawwassen) First Nation
People of the River Referrals Office (PPRO) on behalf of the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA)	S̱ÁUṮW̱ (Tsawout) First Nation
Quw'utsun Nation (Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Penelakut Tribes and Stz'uminus First Nation)	W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation
Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island) First Nation	səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation

Table 2 2- Participating Indigenous nations to-date

Role of Participating Indigenous Nations

Participating Indigenous nations have specific procedural rights under the Act, including:

- Access to capacity funding;
- Consensus seeking processes;
- A procedure to communicate consent or withhold consent at specific decision points; and
- Access to facilitated dispute resolution.

For more information on participating Indigenous nations please see the [EAO's guidance materials](#).

The EA process is designed to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by implementing the standards set out in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) in the context of EA. For every EA, the effects of a project on participating Indigenous nations and their Aboriginal rights must be assessed. The EAO recognizes that each Nation has a unique culture and connection to the lands and resources that are subject to a proposed project, including situating the project proposal within the Nation's priorities and visions into the future. Through these understandings, the EAO and the participating Indigenous nation can work through a range of potential decisions about the EA process for a proposed project and determine how the EAO and the Nation make those decisions together. The EAO anticipates that the scope of engagement will be different for each Nation in recognition of the diverse interests inherent to Indigenous nations.

Developing an Understanding of Interests

The EAO and each participating Indigenous nation will work together, as early as possible, to develop an understanding of the Nation's unique connection to the proposed project area including past, current, and future uses of the area and interests that may be affected by the proposed project, which is referred to as the *Understanding of Interests*.

This Understanding of Interests will be reflective of the Nation's governance requirements and roles and will inform the EA process, including the scope and nature of the assessment and the focus of consensus seeking requirements of the Act at each EA phase.

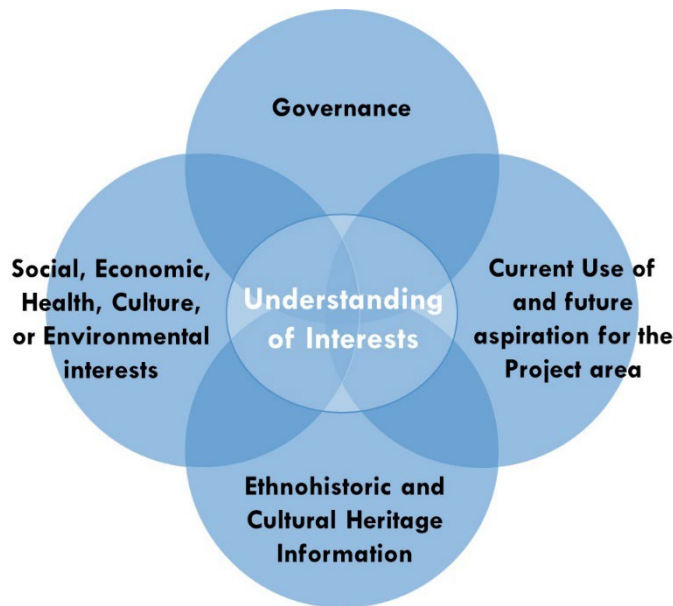


Figure 2- Potential inputs considered when developing an understanding of a participating Indigenous Nation's interests

One objective of Early Engagement is to seek a preliminary set of interests from each Nation to inform a more complete Understanding of Interests. It is critical that proponents and the EAO engage jointly and independently with each Nation to better understand how these preliminary interests may be related to potential impacts specific to the project on each Nation's rights or on the Nation itself. This understanding of potential effects pathways between the project and a Nations' interests will inform a refined scope of engagement with each Nation throughout the EA. This customized scope of engagement will be unique for each Nation through the recognition of:

- Past, current, and future use of the project area and/or resources that may utilize or located within the project area (including potential downstream effects);
- Refined project-specific interests and potential effects to the Nations and/or their rights; and
- The governance role of each Nation in the project area.

Importantly, the EAO recognizes that the interests identified by each Nation at this stage of the Early Engagement phase for the Fraser River Tunnel Project require additional engagement by TIC and the EAO to inform the scope of subsequent engagement. The EAO will continue to engage with each Nation to better understand each Nation's interests with respect to the Fraser River Tunnel Project.

Integrating Input into the Detailed Project Description

TIC should consider the interests provided by each participating Indigenous nation and indicate how these interests will be incorporated into the Detailed Project Description, through the inclusion of additional information or an indication how comments may be considered in subsequent phases of the EA (e.g. Process Planning that sets the scope of the EA,

Application Development that allows for collaborative opportunities to review the application prior to assessment, and Effects Assessment that assess the potential effects of a project on participating Indigenous nations and their rights).

The EAO also anticipates that TIC will undertake additional engagement with participating Indigenous nations to better understand the interests and Project concerns put forth, and that TIC will respond to each Nation’s interests as part of the Detailed Project Description by considering if additional information is necessary to inform the Readiness Decision. The EAO will review the Detailed Project Description and TIC’s response to the input received from each participating Indigenous nation collaboratively with the Nations in support of the Readiness Decision.

The scope of engagement with each participating Indigenous nation would be finalized during the Process Planning phase through the issuance of a Process Order that includes specific information necessary to assess effects of the Fraser River Tunnel Project on a Nation and/or its rights, the level of involvement of each Nation on the Technical Advisory Committee and its sub-committees, the timing and nature of specific engagement activities, and whether a Nation(s) wish to conduct certain aspects of the assessment, for example through an Indigenous-led assessment.

The Indigenous interests identified below are not an exhaustive list of concerns or interests but are a summary of what has been heard so far. Additional feedback and input will need to be considered should an EA be required. This list is preliminary and only reflective of what has been heard so far through notification letters received from participating Indigenous nations, and comments on the IPD and EP. The EAO expects TIC to continue to engage with participating Indigenous nations to build a greater understanding of potential effects to the nation’s interests and project concerns.

Table 3 below summarizes Indigenous interests and concerns that have been identified by participating Indigenous nations at this time:

Participating Indigenous Nation	Potential Effects to Indigenous Interests and Project Concerns	Letters and Submission
<p>xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam)</p>	<p>Musqueam’s territory is depicted in the Musqueam Statement of Intent, filed with the British Columbia Treaty Commission in 1993. Musqueam shared that it has a proven right to fish, for food, social, and ceremonial purposes in the waters of the Fraser River Delta where the proposed project is located.</p> <p>Concerns in regard to rights and title to cause significant impacts.</p> <p>Anticipated effects to fish and fish habitat that could impact fishing rights that may threaten food, social, and ceremonial needs.</p> <p>Concern regarding the location of the project as it relates to Musqueam sense of place and identity.</p> <p>Potential impacts to cultural continuity and heritage.</p> <p>Concern of possible impacts to health including stressors from air, dust, and GHG emissions, noise from construction and loss of access to traditional foods and impacts to sense of place and identity.</p> <p>Cumulative effects from historic colonial developments and simultaneously proposed projects in Musqueam Territory.</p> <p>Potential impacts to constitutionally protected Section 35 rights.</p> <p>Loss of fish or access to fish resources which may cause economic impacts to Musqueam harvesters.</p> <p>Construction equipment and increased vessel traffic may impact traditional fishing practices.</p> <p>Concern of potential impacts to sturgeon (species at risk).</p> <p>Sacred and spiritually relevant sites located in Deas Slough and the surrounding area.</p> <p>Increased psychological and emotional stress from uncertainty over Project effects (e.g., reduced safety from marine traffic, disruptions to fishing, accident, and spill potential).</p>	<p>Letter of Intent</p>

Participating Indigenous Nation	Potential Effects to Indigenous Interests and Project Concerns	Letters and Submission
	<p>Potential of increased interruptions to knowledge transmission and lost opportunities to transmit knowledge due to the loss of access and quality of access to the area.</p> <p>Potential project interactions on birds and bird behavior from sensory disturbances such as light, noise and, construction activities.</p> <p>Health impacts from the loss of access to traditional plants for food and medicine and reduction in quality of plants that remain.</p>	
Quw'utsun Nation	<p>The Quw'utsun Nation, which is comprised of Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Lyackson First Nation, Penelakut Tribes and Stz'uminus First Nation, each as represented by their Chiefs and Councils, which are descendants of the 11 communities or local groups that made up the historic Quw'utsun Nation which were an Aboriginal people and who existed at the time of European contact and at 1846.</p> <p>Indigenous rights under United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP):</p> <p>To protect archaeological and historical sites and artifacts.</p> <p>To maintain, protect and have access to cultural sites.</p> <p>To revitalize, develop and transmit to future generations histories, oral traditions and place names relating to the Project area.</p> <p>To participate in decision-making in matters which would affect rights in the Project area, through representatives chosen by ourselves.</p> <p>To be secure in the enjoyment of own means subsistence and to engage freely in all traditional and other economic activities, and to just and fair redress if we are deprived of the same.</p> <p>To improve social and economic conditions.</p> <p>To traditional medicines and to maintain our health practices, including the conservation of our medicinal plants, animals and minerals.</p> <p>To enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.</p> <p>To maintain and strengthen our distinctive spiritual relationship with our traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and other resources and to uphold our responsibilities to future generations in this regard.</p> <p>To the lands, territories and resources traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used acquired.</p> <p>To own, use develop and control and lands, territories and resources that we possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which we have otherwise acquired.</p> <p>To have our lands, territories and resources legally recognized and protected by the State.</p> <p>To redress (including restitution) or just, fair and equitable compensation for lands, territories and resources which we have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.</p> <p>To the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of our lands or territories and resources,</p> <p>To determine and develop strategies for the development or use of our lands or territories and other resources,</p> <p>Aboriginal rights (within the meaning of s.35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982) to harvest wildlife, waterfowl, vegetation and other resources; to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes; and to the land itself.</p>	<p>Letter of Intent</p>

Participating Indigenous Nation	Potential Effects to Indigenous Interests and Project Concerns	Letters and Submission
Snuneymuxw First Nation	<p>The Snuneymuxw Treaty of 1854 protects Snuneymuxw villages, enclosed fields, waterways, harvesting and gathering, and the right to hunt and carry-on fisheries as formerly. This treaty is recognized as a Treaty within Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i>, 1982. The proposed project area falls within Snuneymuxw First Nation’s traditional territory, including Snuneymuxw fisheries and fishing villages and has the potential to affect these sites along with associated cultural activities, traditional uses, and access to water-based activities along the lower Fraser River.</p> <p>Concerns over adequacy and accuracy of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) fish and fish habitat “least risk windows.”</p> <p>Potential impacts to harvesting and cultural rights as they pertain to timing windows.</p> <p>Employment and training opportunities for Indigenous groups.</p> <p>Air and dust emissions which may impact accessibility of preferred harvesting areas.</p> <p>Recognition of tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Reconciliation Implementation Framework Agreement.</p> <p>Noise-sensitive land use receptors should include Indigenous harvesters who may access the area to exercise harvesting rights.</p> <p>Concern about increasing anthropogenic disturbances on wildlife health and habitat.</p> <p>Potential impacts on water and sediment quality.</p> <p>Concerns about potential impacts on Southern Resident Killer Whales.</p> <p>Potential impacts to cultural sites or sites of spiritual significance.</p> <p>Lack of Indigenous Harvesters-specific emergency response plans.</p>	Letter of Intent
Tsawwassen First Nation	<p>The project is proposed to take place in Tsawwassen Territory as defined under the Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement (“Treaty”).</p> <p>Tsawwassen First Nation has indicated that B.C., as a Treaty Partner, is aware of Tsawwassen First Nation’s interests and how they could interact with the Project.</p>	Letter of Intent
SṪÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation	<p>Concern about potential project impacts on SṪÁUTW’s traditional trading routes and marine environment.</p> <p>Concerns that project may impact SṪÁUTW’s traditional marine use area which is protected under SṪÁUTW marine law.</p>	Letter of Intent

Table 3 3- Indigenous Interests and Project Concerns

Public

The EAO held a 45-day public comment and engagement period on the Fraser River Tunnel Project’s IPD and EP from April 25th to June 9th, 2022. The EAO organized two in-person open houses on May 10 and May 11, 2022, which were held in Delta and Richmond, respectively. The EAO also organized two virtual information sessions on May 17 and May 19, 2022, via Zoom Webinar. A total of 82 attended the in-person open houses and a total of 44 people participated in the virtual information sessions. The public comment and engagement period and open houses were advertised in local newspapers and on local radio stations and via [EAO’s Twitter](#) and the [EAO’s webpage](#). The EAO received a total of 119 public comments through the EAO’s [online project registry EPIC](#). Four comments were rejected following to the EAO’s [public comment policy](#). All individual comments were shared with TIC to inform the development of the Detailed Project Description and further engagement.

The public comments have been organized into 10 categories, reflecting the input received.

Approximately 38% of comments (49 out of 119) stated a general opposition to the tunnel or favoured an alternative crossing option (for example, a bridge). The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is proposing a tunnel, which is based on the [2021 George Massey Crossing business case](#); the EAO assesses reviewable projects as they are proposed through a neutral regulatory process. 11 comments stated a general support for the proposed tunnel without highlighting any specific topics related to the project.

TIC will respond to each comment category as part of the Detailed Project Description via the inclusion of additional information, project design considerations etc., and/or indicate how these comments may inform subsequent phases of the EA. Public comments were solicited by the EAO and were posted on the [EAO's EPIC website](#).

Table 4 below provides a summary of public comments received during Early Engagement:

Comment Theme	Concern or Comment
Public Transportation	A desire that additional lanes or infrastructure to allow for future expansion of the SkyTrain network be considered due to increased demand and population growth south of the Fraser River. Ladner, Tsawwassen, and BC ferries would benefit from greater access to rapid transit options as they are currently limited. Mass transit options should also be considered given the context of climate change, BC/Canada's climate goals, and GHG emissions of low-capacity vehicles.
Traffic	The increased capacity of the new tunnel may induce traffic demand and inadvertently impact commuters north of the river. The Oak Street Bridge, which crosses over the north arm of the Fraser River and connects Richmond to Vancouver, is only four lanes and may not adequately handle increased traffic due to the expansion of the tunnel. Alternatively, other concerns were raised that eight lanes will be insufficient to meet the growing demands of the area.
Local Economy	During the Request for Proposals, preference should be given to local suppliers and businesses in order to contribute to the local economy as much as possible. The design of the new tunnel should also promote the movement of products which may include dangerous goods.
Walking and Cycling	The new tunnel design should include active transportation links to Deas Island and River Road. The Delta Millennium Trail links Captain's cove and Deas Island, which is used by local residents and visitors. Access to the trail may be impacted during the construction phase unless an alternative solution is included in the design of the project. Concerns were raised about the safety of the multi-use pathway during low-traffic hours, the safety of vulnerable groups and whether ventilation would adequately filter exhaust from vehicle traffic. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic should be separated due to higher crash-rates of multi-use pathways and decreased efficiency of cycling. The proponent should also consult representatives of transportive cycling in metro Vancouver.
Environment and Air Quality	Dredging the bed of the Fraser River in preparation of dropping tunnel sections may have serious environmental impacts on the river ecosystem including fish and fish habitat by way of sedimentation and soil disturbance. Portal excavations at the end of each tunnel may also disturb shorelines which are home to important wildlife and vegetative species. Erosion and salmon habitat should be considered key concerns during project design. Salmon runs may also arrive at unpredictable times. Construction of the tunnel may need to pause in order to minimize impacts to salmon during this time.
Accident and Malfunctions	Transport of dangerous goods through the tunnel may pose a risk on other tunnel users, namely recreational and personal vehicles. Consideration should be given to the potential of a seismic event which could cause catastrophic failure to the existing tunnel and how that may impact construction of the new tunnel.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	Assessment of the new tunnel should consider embodied GHG emissions (emissions from the manufacturing of materials, excavation, fabrication, transport to sites, and construction activities) in the context of BC and Canada's climate goals. The proponent should endeavor to mitigate embodied GHGs where possible and consider alternative solutions to align with the Clean BC framework.

Residential Disturbance	Construction and operation of the new tunnel may cause vibrations and noise which would disturb nearby residences. Road debris and dust may adversely impact the health of neighbouring residents. The proposed River Road offramp may also induce traffic into a residential neighbourhood including an elementary school. An exit into this neighbourhood should be reconsidered.
Impacts of the Environment on the Project	Concerns regarding how the project design will take rising sea levels and climate change impacts into consideration.

Table 44 – Summary of public comments received

Technical Advisors

Technical advisors play a vital role in advising the EAO and participating Indigenous nations on technical matters related to the assessment. Technical advisors will have the opportunity to participate on the Technical Advisory Committee formed during Process Planning, should the Fraser River Tunnel Project proceed to an EA. Please see the [Technical Advisory Committee Guidelines](#) for more information. The EAO contacted technical advisors from potentially affected Indigenous nations, local governments, provincial and federal government agencies, and provincial health authorities to request their feedback on the IPD. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for a list of technical advisors invited to participate during Early Engagement.

On May 16, 2022, the EAO hosted a virtual meeting with technical advisors to provide an overview of the Fraser River Tunnel Project and the EA process under the Act, and to outline the roles and responsibilities of technical advisors during Early Engagement and of the Technical Advisory Committee during future EA phases of a project review. Following the meeting, the EAO requested that technical advisors identify key issues for TIC to consider in the Detailed Project Description.

A complete list of comments received from technical advisors on the IPD can be found on the EAO's [EPIC website](#) and a summary of input received from technical advisors is provided in Table 2 below. TIC should consider feedback from technical advisors and indicate how it is incorporated into the Detailed Project Description via the inclusion of additional information, project design considerations etc., and/or indicate how these comments may inform subsequent phases of the EA.

Category	Technical Advisor Input
Project design considerations	Mitigation measures are needed to eliminate/reduce impacts to agricultural land that may occur as a result of the temporary construction site facilities.
	Construction impacts on BC Hydro infrastructure and potential for relocation.
	Mitigation and management of stormwater runoff and monitoring of flood protection of existing dikes.
	Consideration to relocate existing BC Hydro infrastructure underground.
	New drainage infrastructure to accommodate large rainfall events and maintenance of existing infrastructure.
	Maximizing the availability of natural and recreational lands.
	Ensure safety of MUP for users and create options for modes of transportation shift.
	Consideration for mitigation for the fish trap project Tsawwassen First Nation is proposing that could be impacted by site for temporary moorage for the proposed project.
	The new tunnel should provide options for counter-flow during peak usage, or at least research if a counter-flow system is feasible to include in the design (similar to what exists in the current tunnel.)

Project interactions with the biophysical environment	Increased truck traffic in project area may impact local farm operation's harvest (August to October). Least risk windows for the protection of aquatic and terrestrial ecological receptors overlap with harvest season resulting in potential conflicts.
	Potential need for an agricultural impact assessment.
	Identify and mitigate potential impacts to farmland adjacent to project site if localized flooding were to occur. Mitigation measures should be considered to reduce likelihood of contaminated waters entering nearby irrigation canals.
	Recommendation that the Detailed Project Description include and discuss potential impacts to Barn Owl critical habitat.
	Potential mitigations for dredging and pile driving impacts on Sturgeon.
	Potential impacts to freshwater habitats which include altered streams and ditches.
	Impacts of climate change on proposed habitat offset models.
	Potential impacts of dredging and subsequent sedimentation on fish habitat.
	Assessment of marmots and marmot habitat due to potential use of dike riprap.
	Identify impacts to invertebrates and microbes.
	Surveying, management, and studying of invasive species as it relates to the project area.
	Concerns around the use of potable water during construction phase.
	Duration of temporary instream impacts (i.e., time to recover).
	Potential impacts on salt marsh habitat and assessment methodology of these impacts.
	Concern of overlapping red-listed ecological communities (large-headed sedge, Sitka Willow).
	Potential impacts to climate change resilience as a result of changes in sediment load on the Fraser River.
Potential impact associated with the project construction timelines and Tsawwassen First Nation Treaty rights to fish. Mitigation of these impacts will need to be developed.	
Identify the potential for fish or fish elements to be stranded or crushed during the flooding and dewatering of tunnel sections.	
Concern for loss of habitat including river habitat and how and when associated offsetting will be developed.	
Project interactions with the human environment	Ensure that project impacts on the River Woods complex and other residential developments will be fully assessed including noise and vibrations.
	Potential impacts from lighting on surrounding environment and on motorists, active transport users, and pedestrians using the tunnel.
	Potential traffic impacts on adjacent municipal road network.
	Concerns regarding location and size of temporary laydown areas and crew parking.
	Studies and assessment of impacts on fuel consumption and GHG emissions from commuters.
	Consideration of impacts to vulnerable groups that utilize nearby spaces.

	Potential of induced traffic demand due to the project and its impacts on urban development.
	Concerns that health impacts to Indigenous communities will create loss of cultural knowledge transfer, loss of access to traditional resources, impacts to out of community employment
	Potential for MUP users to access restricted areas on Deas Island.
	Concerns regarding transport of dangerous goods and safety plans.
Permitting conditions	Materials from excavation, dredging and construction that are planned to be disposed of at sea will require a Disposal at Sea permit, as per Part 7, Division 3 of the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i> .
	<i>Fisheries Act</i> Authorization if dredging will result in prohibited effects under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> .
	<i>Dike Maintenance Act</i> will need to be addressed for the decommissioning of the existing tunnel.
	Contamination Soils Management Plan may be required due to emergence of contaminants of concern.
	Temporary workspaces located on Metro Vancouver lands will require a temporary license agreement.
	Soil Deposit and Removal Permit if soil is being transported along Delta-owned roads.
	Highway Use Permit if there are new driveway accesses or other uses along Delta roads.
	<i>Environmental Management Act</i> should be consulted for expectations regarding disposal of dredging material.
Baseline information	Need for updated project-specific baseline data relating to underwater noise levels.
	Include how Tsawwassen First Nation baseline studies of eulachon and migratory birds will be used to inform the project's EA.
	Impacts to fish in the Fraser River, cumulative harm to the fish stocks and/or their habitat caused by construction of a new tunnel and/or decommissioning of the existing tunnel.
	Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes should be expanded, not just along Highway 99 corridor, as access to this area for traditional purposes is significantly depleted from pre-contact time.
Archaeology/Heritage	Distinction between treaty rights and traditional uses.
	Potential archaeological find on the south side of Deas Island (near the Deas Island Bridge).

Table 5 5- Technical Advisor Input

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

As a next step in the Early Engagement phase, TIC is required to provide meaningful responses to the input included in this Summary of Engagement and will consider the individual issues raised during Early Engagement in the development of the Detailed Project Description for the Fraser River Tunnel Project. The guidelines for completing a Detailed Project Description are included in the [Early Engagement Policy](#). The EAO recommends that, prior to formally submitting the final Detailed Project Description to the EAO, TIC provide an early draft of the Detailed Project Description to the EAO, technical advisors and participating Indigenous nations to seek their feedback and identify if additional information is needed in the Detailed Project Description that may be helpful in support of the Readiness Decision, which seeks to:

- Ensure sufficient proponent engagement with participating Indigenous nations, provincial and federal agencies, local governments, and the public has occurred, including adequate opportunities to comment on project design, siting, and alternative approaches to developing the project;

- Ensure sufficient information is available to initiate an EA, including that which is required for the Process Planning phase which sets the scope and information requirements for the project's EA; and
- Transparently identify key project issues for resolution during the EA.

It is important that the Detailed Project Description describe how engagement was considered and how it may have contributed to changes in the proposed project design or to subsequent EA phases.

As part of the Detailed Project Description submission, TIC is required to respond to:

- each public comment category (with consideration of individual comments for context);
- each comment from technical advisors; and
- the interests provided by each participating Indigenous nation.

TIC should respond to this input via the inclusion of additional information, project design considerations etc., and/or indicate how these comments may inform subsequent phases of the EA. The EAO requests that the submission of the Detailed Project Description be accompanied by a table that clearly references how feedback received by EA participants (in addition to what is summarized in this report) is incorporated into the Detailed Project Description as warranted. The EAO also encourages that TIC engage with the participating Indigenous nations and technical advisors that provided comments during development of the Detailed Project Description to collaboratively discuss additional information that may be helpful to inform the Readiness Decision to determine if there is adequate information to proceed to an EA.

If the project proceeds to an EA, the Detailed Project Description will also be used as the proponent's key foundational document to inform the development of documents during the Process Planning phase, particularly the Process Order, the Assessment Plan, the Application Information Requirements, and the Regulatory Coordination Plan.

The Readiness Decision phase will start after TIC submits a final Detailed Project Description which will involve the EAO's determination of whether enough information is available to start the Process Planning phase of the EA with key issues identified for resolution later in the EA process.

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF TECHNICAL ADVISORS

The list below includes the groups that were requested to provide comments on the IPD during Early Engagement as technical advisors:

- Municipalities
 - Metro Vancouver
 - City of Delta
 - City of Richmond
- Agricultural Land Commission
- BC Hydro and Power Authority (Observer)
- Fraser Health Authority
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (Port of Vancouver)
- Government of Canada
 - Environment & Climate Change Canada
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Observer)
 - Transport Canada
- Government of British Columbia
 - Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
 - Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
 - Ministry of Forests
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Observer)
 - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
 - Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes Strategy
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Food