
News Release

CANADA AND VICTORIA TO INVEST IN NEW JOHNSON STREET BRIDGE
*State-of-the-art bridge will create jobs,
enhance motorist safety, improve link between Victoria--Esquimalt*

Victoria , British Columbia, October 24, 2009 — John Baird, Canada’s Transport and Infrastructure Minister, together with His Worship Dean Fortin, Mayor of Victoria, today announced that the Johnson Street Bridge, which links downtown Victoria and Esquimalt, will be replaced.

The Government of Canada is setting aside funding for one-third of the total project costs, up to a maximum of \$21 million. The City of Victoria will provide the balance of the funding, approximately \$42 million, for an estimated project value of \$63 million.

“Under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, our Government is focussed on investing in and improving critical infrastructure that will create jobs and stimulate local economies,” said Minister Baird. “Replacing the 85-year-old Johnson Street bridge will ensure that this vital regional link will be a safe transportation option for residents of Victoria for another century.”

“I am excited that the Government of Canada has made such a large investment in our Capital City, an investment that allows us to move forward on a project of great importance to the community,” said Mayor Dean Fortin. “Today’s announcement is the largest investment Victoria has ever seen, and we are very grateful for their partnership.”

The bridge replacement will improve access for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and rail passengers, and will provide greater efficiency, mobility and safety.

Beyond this funding announcement, the Government of Canada is taking important steps to support economic growth. Canada’s Economic Action Plan, announced in Budget 2009, is a balanced stimulus plan that includes important investments in infrastructure. This plan is providing close to \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over two years that will address needs in communities across Canada, as well as contribute to long-term economic growth through investments in public infrastructure such as roads, water treatment, green energy and transit.

For more information on Building Canada, please visit: www.creatingjobs.gc.ca.

To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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