

**Get informed.**

# The Future of the Johnson Street Bridge

**Provide input.**

The Johnson Street Bridge connects downtown Victoria with the neighbourhood of Victoria West and several municipalities on the West Shore.

The City of Victoria is faced with a big decision; how best to address the 86 year old Johnson Street Bridge to avoid risk and closure in the next few years. Before deciding whether the bridge is replaced or rehabilitated, City Council would like to hear from Victoria residents.

# Choosing a Bridge for the Future



**Last year, an engineering analysis highlighted extensive corrosion in the bridge's structural beams, and obsolete mechanical and electrical systems that could fail leaving the bridge stuck open or closed. In addition, the bridge was found to be seismically vulnerable and will collapse in a moderate earthquake. The assessment indicated that a substantial investment would need to be made by 2012, to ensure the bridge remains safe and open.**

The City of Victoria is now faced with a big decision; how best to address the 86 year old Johnson Street Bridge to avoid risk and closure in the next few years. Before deciding whether the bridge is replaced or rehabilitated, City Council would like to hear from Victoria residents.

This information package is designed to help you get informed and provide input before the Council decides which project to seek voter approval for borrowing.

## **A BRIDGE FOR THE FUTURE**

Regardless of whether replacement or rehabilitation is chosen, both options include three lanes for vehicle traffic, seismic upgrading to withstand an 8.5 magnitude earthquake, will include a multi-use path for pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchairs and strollers, and will preserve access for a rail bridge in the future.

## **HOW WILL CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE AFFECT ME?**

Construction impacts of a replacement bridge would be minimal as the existing road bridge would remain open while the new bridge is being built slightly to the north.

Construction impacts of a rehabilitation bridge would mean the bridge would have to be closed for at least one year affecting all traffic modes. Recent economic impact studies forecast the economic impact of a full bridge closure to be over \$13 million a year.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMES FIRST WHEN IT COMES TO EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS**

Victoria is located in the most active seismic zone in Canada and recent studies have indicated that there is a 30–35% probability of a major earthquake (magnitude 7.0–7.9) occurring in Victoria within the next 50 years.



Both replacement and rehabilitation options would be built to the highest standard of earthquake protection – to withstand an 8.5 magnitude earthquake – to ensure the safety of users, disaster response, protection of investment and post-disaster recovery.

## VICTORIA COMMITTED TO REGIONAL RAIL IN THE FUTURE

The City of Victoria is very supportive of commuter rail in the Capital Region in the future, and both options preserve access for a rail bridge. This has been vested within the Official Community Plan. Due to the estimated cost of the rail crossing, Council feels the rail bridge should be funded through a regional finance model and not solely paid for by City of Victoria taxpayers.

This summer, City staff are actively pursuing funding opportunities for rail to be included in this project. By removing the rail bridge from the cost of the project,

a cost savings of \$12 million on the replacement option and \$23 million on the rehabilitation option have been realized.

## “DOING NOTHING” IS NOT A VIABLE OPTION

The bridge is a vital part of the regional transportation network. Recent economic impact studies forecast the economic impact of a full bridge closure to be over \$13 million a year to downtown businesses.

Due to the economic impact a permanent closure of the bridge would have on downtown, something must be done. If permission to borrow funds is declined, City Council will have to consider funding the project through tax increases and/or spending reserve funds.

If nothing is done to address the Johnson Street Bridge within the next two years it will face closure. Closing the bridge would have costs that include decommissioning and removing the bridge. Sizable investments in other transportation areas would need to be made to compensate for higher volumes on other routes.

# Replacement Bridge

## CONCEPT CROSSVIEW



### Costs

### Replacement

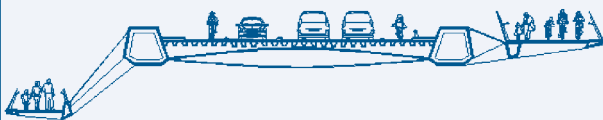
<b>Total Project Cost:</b> .....	<b>\$77 million</b>
Confirmed Federal funding .....	\$21 million
Tax increase .....	0.38%
Construction Timeline .....	4 years
Traffic Disruption .....	Minimal
Economic impact to downtown .....	Minimal
100 year maintenance costs (2010 dollars) ....	\$22 million

### Project Features

### Replacement

100 year service life .....	✓
M 8.5 seismic performance .....	✓
Heritage conservation – site .....	✓
Dedicated multi-use path .....	✓
3 lanes for vehicles .....	✓
Dedicated sidewalk .....	✓
Consolidation of existing green space .....	✓
Integration with existing and proposed pathways .....	✓
On-street bike lanes .....	✓
Upgraded navigation channel .....	✓
Eliminate “S” curve .....	✓
Improved road approaches on both sides .....	✓
Dedicated rail crossing .....	✗
Heritage conservation – existing bridge structure .....	✗

CROSS-SECTION



# Rehabilitation Bridge

## CONCEPT CROSSVIEW



### Project Features

### Rehabilitation

100 year service life .....	✓
M 8.5 seismic performance .....	✓
Heritage conservation – site .....	✓
Dedicated multi-use path .....	✓
3 lanes for vehicles .....	✓
Dedicated sidewalk .....	✓
Heritage conservation – existing bridge structure .....	✓
Integration with existing and proposed pathways .....	Partial
On-street bike lanes .....	✗
Upgraded navigation channel .....	✗
Eliminate “S” curve .....	✗
Improved road approaches on both sides .....	✗
Dedicated rail crossing .....	✗
Consolidation of existing green space .....	✗

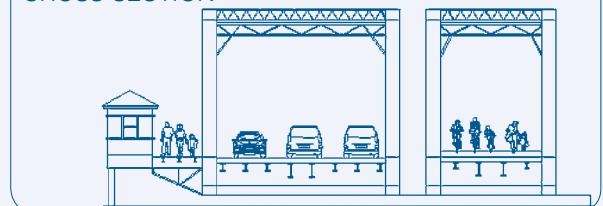
### Costs

### Rehabilitation

<b>Total Project Cost:</b> .....	<b>\$80 million</b>
Potential federal funding .....	\$21 million*
Tax increase .....	0.63 – 2.36%*
Construction Timeline .....	4 years
Traffic Disruption .....	Full closure – 1 year
Economic impact to downtown .....	\$13 million
100 year maintenance costs (2010 dollars) ...	\$42 million

\*The rehabilitation option may be eligible for a Federal grant of \$21 million. The City would need to submit a revised proposal for Federal review. If the City is successful in securing the Federal grant the tax increase would be reduced from 2.36% to 0.63%.

### CROSS-SECTION



# Moving Forward

## Opportunities to Learn More

If you have further questions and want to learn more consider attending one of the open houses:

### Open Houses at City Hall:

Saturday, July 10, 2010 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Wednesday, July 21, 2010 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

And watch for us at public markets and special events in July.

### Bridge Tours:

Get a close-up opportunity to understand the bridge's current condition and how it works.

Saturday, July 17, 2010

Register for a guided bridge tour by calling **250.361.0288**.

Due to safety considerations, space is limited and registration is required.

### Dedicated Website:

Visit the dedicated project website at [www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com](http://www.JohnsonStreetBridge.com) for all of the information available about the current condition of the Johnson Street Bridge, the rehabilitation and replacement options and frequently asked questions.

### Representative Survey of Victorians:

An Ipsos-Reid survey of Victoria residents and businesses will be conducted in late July to determine which bridge option the community prefers. This scientific polling will ensure the City hears from a representative sample of Victoria residents. This data will be presented to City Council with all of the comments and feedback received, prior to selecting a project on August 12.

### Referendum and By-election:



**General Voting Day is planned for November 20, 2010**

Victoria electors will be asked to vote in the upcoming referendum and by-election. The referendum will seek electors approval to borrow money for the Johnson Street Bridge Project. A by-election will be held at the same time to elect a new City Councillor to fill the seat being vacated by Sonya Chandler.



1 CENTENNIAL SQUARE, VICTORIA BC V8W 1P6 | [www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)