



## Report Recommends Bridge Close to Rail Unless Repaired

Date: Thursday, March 31, 2011

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – After completing a structural inspection of the Johnson Street Bridge the Engineer of Record from Stantec Consulting Ltd. found deterioration in key vertical steel support columns on the rail bridge and has recommended that the City close the rail bridge to rail traffic unless repairs are completed.

Roughly four weeks of repairs are required to safely allow the train to cross the bridge due to its weight. The bridge may remain open to pedestrians and cyclists.

Council will review the repair options at the April 7 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting.

City staff will meet with the Island Corridor Foundation to find a temporary stop in Victoria West for the train. The train is not currently crossing the bridge as Southern Railway of Vancouver Island is conducting improvements to the track.

The rail bridge is scheduled to be removed in early 2012 to allow the construction of the replacement Johnson Street Bridge.

The road bridge requires some minor repairs which will begin with a two hour road bridge closure on Sunday, April 3, from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. and be completed within the following week. Sunday's two hour closure should be the only disruption to the public due to the road bridge repairs.

The last structural inspection was conducted in 2008 as part of the Johnson Street Bridge condition assessment. Weekly visual inspections of the bridge are conducted by City staff and maintenance is conducted as required. The condition of the bridge has been monitored closely for many years to ensure the bridge remains safe.

The condition assessment of the now 87 year old bridge noted numerous structural, mechanical, electrical and seismic deficiencies. It indicated that a substantial investment would be required in the bridge by 2012 to avoid further deterioration, increasing operational costs and possible closure.

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### For More Information:

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