



Johnson Street Rail Bridge to Permanently Close to All Traffic this Saturday

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – At Noon, on Saturday, April 9 the Johnson Street Rail Bridge will close to all users – rail, pedestrians and cyclists.

Acting on advice from consulting and City engineers, Victoria City Council approved the immediate closure of the rail bridge at today's Governance and Priorities Committee. Recent inspections completed by Stantec Consulting Ltd. recommended an immediate closure unless emergency repairs were made to address deterioration in key vertical steel support columns.

The Johnson Street Rail Bridge will be raised into an upright position on Saturday and will remain in that position until it is decommissioned.

Repairing the rail bridge was estimated at \$120,000 which greatly exceeded the annual maintenance budget for the bridge. The rail bridge was already scheduled to be removed in early 2012 to enable construction of the replacement bridge.

An interim traffic management plan will direct pedestrians to the sidewalk on the south side of the road bridge and give cyclists the option of either walking their bikes on the sidewalk or cycling across the bridge on the roadway. Signs will be clearly posted onsite.

The train is not currently running on the South Island due to required upgrades. City Staff will work with the Island Corridor Foundation to find a temporary train station on the west side of the bridge to accommodate the train when it resumes operation.

— 30 —

For More Information:

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