

# **BACKGROUND: REPLACING THE PATTULLO BRIDGE**

## **WHY REPLACE THE PATTULLO BRIDGE?**

Opened in 1937, the Pattullo Bridge is one of the oldest bridges in the Lower Mainland. It's part of the Major Road Network, serving primarily as a connection between Surrey, New Westminster and Burnaby, and is a critical transportation link for the movement of people, goods and services.

The aging bridge is very close to the end of its serviceable life. Over the years, significant funding has been invested to rehabilitate the bridge, extending the bridge's life and keeping it safe for drivers using it today. A number of significant issues remain, including seismic and structural concerns, and there are no quick fixes. As a result, the Mayors' Council and TransLink are moving forward with plans to replace the 80-year-old bridge with a new four-lane bridge.

## **TIMING**

The Pattullo Bridge must be replaced or closed by 2023. Engineers regularly inspect the bridge and necessary repairs are being made to maintain safety, but there is the real potential that the bridge could reach a state of repair that it may have to close even sooner.

## **IMPACTS OF A POTENTIAL CLOSURE**

Replacing the Pattullo Bridge is an urgent priority and a key component of the Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transportation. Closing the bridge would negatively impact Metro Vancouver residents in many ways, as they experienced in a limited form in 2016, when bridge work required intermittent evening and weekend closures. Impacts of a closure would include increased congestion, longer commutes, and negative impacts on air quality and the local economy.

## REPLACEMENT PROJECT TIMELINE

TransLink and the Mayors' Council have already undertaken significant project development and environmental assessment work to ensure a new Pattullo Bridge is built and in service before the old bridge must close in 2023.

The project is currently on schedule. Before it can move forward to the next phase – procurement – confirmed funding must be in place no later than September 2017 to ensure potential bidders have the confidence they need to submit bids.

## FUNDING

The Pattullo Bridge replacement project's existing draft business case identifies two key funding sources:

- One-third of capital costs to be funded by the provincial and federal governments; and
- Two-thirds of capital costs to be funded by toll revenues or alternatives, plus any private equity investment in the project.

Part of the provincial funding commitment must respond to uncertainties that have arisen from BC Liberal and BC NDP commitments to change tolling policies and practices in Metro Vancouver. TransLink analysis of the parties' proposed tolling policy changes has identified significant risks to the timing and viability of the Pattullo Bridge replacement project. The potential loss of toll revenues creates uncertainties for the project, and a new funding strategy will need to be developed.