

Monthly Status Report

Reporting Period: December 2024

1. Introduction

1.1. Project Overview

The Fraser River Tunnel Project is an eight-lane immersed tube tunnel that will replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99. The new tunnel will include three general-purpose lanes and a dedicated transit lane in each direction. It will also provide a separated multi-use path to connect pedestrians and cyclists with active transportation routes on either side of the Fraser River. The Project includes a new eight-lane Deas Slough Bridge, related connections to the existing Highway 99 between Westminster Highway and Highway 17A, and decommissioning of the existing tunnel.

The Project will provide safe, reliable and accessible transportation options that meet the objectives for sustainable growth for the Metro Vancouver region. Key benefits of the Project include:

- Providing traffic congestion relief at the existing tunnel to the non-peak direction
- Addressing the long-term seismic safety performance of the existing tunnel
- Improving transit speed and reliability along the Highway 99 corridor
- Establishing a dedicated active transportation connection for pedestrians and cyclists across the Fraser River on Highway 99
- Maintaining the current clearances for the Fraser River navigational channel

The new tunnel is planned to be opened to traffic in 2030. Once the new tunnel is in operation, the existing George Massey Tunnel and ancillary infrastructure will be decommissioned by the end of 2032. Approval for the Project's Business Case was announced August 18, 2021.

Additional information and updates about the Fraser River Tunnel Project can be found on the Highway 99 Tunnel Program [website](#).

1.2. Project Delivery

Transportation Investment Corporation, a provincial Crown corporation, is delivering and overseeing the Project on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and the BC Transportation Financing Authority. The estimated cost of the Project is \$4.15 billion.

The Project is being delivered through a Progressive Design-Build (PDB) with Target Price model. The procurement process for the Project includes a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), a competitive Design Early Works Agreement Request for Proposals (DEWA RFP) and a development phase, which includes design and development and a concurrent Design-Build Agreement Request for Proposals (DBA RFP). Upon the Province's acceptance of a DBA proposal, the DBA will be executed, and the DBA and the construction phase will begin.

The Project entered procurement with a RFQ issued on June 14, 2023. Following a competitive-selection process, the Province selected Cross Fraser Partnership to enter into the DEWA on September 13, 2024, which marks the start of the development phase. The Cross Fraser Partnership team selected for the development phase includes Bouygues Construction Canada Inc., Fomento de Construcciones y

Contratas Canada Ltd., Pomerleau BC Inc. and Arcadis Canada Inc. During the development phase, the provincial team and the design-build team (i.e., the Design-Builder) will advance design of the new tunnel, prepare for construction in 2026 and deliver the Project's early works, which include design, site investigations, construction planning and initial permitting. The opening of the new tunnel is anticipated for 2030 and Project completion (including decommissioning of the existing tunnel) by 2032.

In advance of tunnel construction, corridor work is also underway, which includes the preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond. This work was awarded to Arsalan Construction Ltd. (Prime Contractor) on June 25, 2024 and is not undertaken by the Design-Builder.

Following the opening of the new eight-lane tunnel, the existing George Massey Tunnel and ancillary infrastructure will be decommissioned by the end of 2032.

1.3. Project Goals

Based on the mandate and results of consultation, four primary goals were identified for the Project:

- Support sustainability of Fraser River Communities
- Facilitate increased share of sustainable modes of transport
- Enhance regional goods movement and commerce
- Support a healthy environment

2. Project Dashboard

		Objectives	Project Status	Comments
Project Delivery	Scope	Project delivered within the approved scope.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Project includes a new, eight-lane immersed tube tunnel that will replace the existing George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99. The new tunnel will have three vehicle lanes and a dedicated transit lane in each direction, with a separated active transportation corridor for cyclists and pedestrians. The Project includes a new Deas Slough Bridge, related connections to the existing Highway 99 and decommissioning of the existing tunnel. – The Project is within the approved scope.
	Schedule	Project delivered within the approved schedule.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Anticipated opening date for the new tunnel is 2030. – The Design-Builder was onboarded in September 2024 with design and construction planning underway, which includes developing a schedule that considers timing for receipt of the Environmental Assessment Certificate and permitting requirements. – Working with the Design-Builder to collaboratively manage potential schedule risks and identify opportunities for improvement.
	Budget	Project delivered within the approved budget of \$4.15 billion.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project spending for the month of December 2024 was \$67.8 million. – Total Project spending to date is \$197 million; the Project is forecast to be delivered within budget. – The budget was approved as part of the Business Case and will be reviewed during the development phase. – Working with the Design-Builder to collaboratively manage potential budget risks and identify efficiencies.
	Safety	Ensure that Project work is performed safely, in compliance with all applicable safety regulations, and in accordance with government policy.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Completed site hazard assessments for the geotechnical investigations. – Continue safety plan development and focus audits for various phases of the preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond and the geotechnical investigations. – Safety auditing and overall monitoring continued with no major safety concerns identified during this period. – No lost-time injuries have been reported on site.
	Quality	Implement an effective Quality Management System.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality monitoring and auditing of select work activities and processes continue.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of quality documentation and submittals are ongoing.
	Environmental	Obtain necessary environmental and regulatory approvals for the Project to proceed. Ensure work is performed in an environmentally responsible manner during construction phase.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Project is currently in the Application Development and Review phase of the provincial Environmental Assessment. – The Project Team is engaging with stakeholders, First Nations and technical advisors to complete and apply for an Environmental Assessment Certificate.
	Design and Construction	Provide design and technical oversight, coordinate and manage activities on site and conduct compliance reviews.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of the reference concept with the Design-Builder and identification of alternative design and construction options are ongoing. – Preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond that was initiated in September 2024 is nearing substantial completion. – Geotechnical investigations are ongoing.
	Community Benefits	Implement the Project Labour Agreement (PLA) labour approach.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Project will be constructed under a Project Labour Agreement. – The Project is working with the Design-Builder to implement the labour approach for construction of the Project.
Partners/ Stakeholders	First Nations	Continue to build and maintain positive and collaborative working relationships with First Nations.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Project engages with 17 participating First Nations as part of the Environmental Assessment. – The Project engages with eight (8) additional First Nations based on their engagement preferences.
	Third Parties	Continue to build and maintain positive relationships with Project partners and other third parties.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regular meetings with the City of Richmond, City of Delta and Metro Vancouver on Project activities are ongoing. – Discussions with City of Richmond, City of Delta and Metro Vancouver regarding development of municipal agreements are ongoing. – Engagement with BC Hydro and CN Rail is ongoing.
	Public and Stakeholder Engagement	Continue to build and maintain positive relationships with the community and other stakeholders.	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepared public communications to support the geotechnical investigations, including public notices, navigational notices and stakeholder updates. – Responded to public inquiries via email and at the community office continues.

Status	Description
●	Managing critical issues, negotiating resolution; action required immediately
●	Managing some issues, negotiating resolution; action required in the near term
●	Managing day to day operations

3. Project Documents and Achievements to Date

Project Delivery	Project Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Independent Technical Review (September 2018) – Project Announcement (August 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical Briefing (August 2021) – Business Case (April 2021) – Business Case Supplemental (June 14, 2023)
	Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Request for qualifications released (June 14, 2023) – Shortlist announced (October 18, 2023) – Request for proposals for design early works agreement released (October 26, 2023) – Highway No. 99 Blundell Road to Steveston Interchange Surcharge Project agreement executed (June 25, 2024) – DEWA executed (September 13, 2024)
	Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Initial Project Description (April 6, 2022) – Detailed Project Description (May 10, 2023) – Environmental Assessment Office Readiness Decision (September 14, 2023) – Process Order received (March 22, 2024)
	Design and Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Test dredge completed (2022) – Reference concept design complete (2023) – Geotechnical investigations (2022-2023) – Existing tunnel monitoring (2024)
	Community Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fraser River Tunnel Project Advance Works Project Labour Agreement (April 12, 2024)
	Partners/ Stakeholders	First Nations
Third Parties		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meetings with, and presentations to, City of Delta, City of Richmond and Metro Vancouver George Massey Crossing Task Force representatives began in September 2021 and continue regularly to ensure a collaborative approach. – Engagement with BC Hydro, CN Rail, and utility providers was initiated in late 2021.
Public and Stakeholder Engagement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Public open houses during Public Comment Periods for Environmental Assessment: May 10 and 11, 2022; Nov. 21 and 22, 2023. – Environmental Assessment Office’s Summary of Engagement from the Early Engagement phase (July 11, 2022). – Environmental Assessment Office’s Summary of Engagement from the Process Planning phase (March 22, 2024).

4. Monthly Highlights and Three Month Lookahead

4.1. Safety

Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Review and collaborate on safety deliverables for preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond and geotechnical investigations, and work with Prime Contractors and the Design-Builder to ensure safety requirements are met.
Monthly Highlights:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Completed additional hazard identifications for onshore geotechnical investigations.– Completed safety audits on the preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond. The Design-Builder provided safety plans for onshore geotechnical investigations.
Three Month Lookahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Complete the Project safety plan and orientation for the geotechnical investigations.

4.2. Quality

Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Implement an effective Quality Management System for work currently being delivered in advance of tunnel construction and future works to be delivered as part of tunnel construction.
Monthly Highlights:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Continued monitoring the prime contractor’s Quality Management System, including quality records, Nonconformity Reports/Log, and Opportunity for Improvement Log for the preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond.– Implemented quality management for the marine geotechnical investigations.
Three Month Lookahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Continue to monitor the quality of preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond.– Continue to monitor the quality of marine geotechnical investigations.– Develop a Project Quality Management Plan for upcoming geotechnical investigations.

4.3. Environmental

Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Complete the environmental studies and investigations and obtain necessary regulatory approvals for the Project to proceed.
Monthly Highlights:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The Project is currently in the Application Development and Review Phase of the provincial Environmental Assessment.– Continued preparing the application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate to be submitted to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).– Continued engagement with technical advisors and 17 participating First Nations.– Supported the Design-Builder in developing permit-condition requirements and continued permit-compliance monitoring.
Three Month Lookahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Continue to advance the development of the application for the Environmental Assessment.– Support the Design-Builder in developing applications for applicable permits and approvals.

4.4. Design and Construction

Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop a reference concept, technical requirements/specifications, and related technical studies for the Project and manage activities on-site.
Monthly Highlights:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continued the preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond. – Continued the marine geotechnical investigation program. – Reviewed the reference concept with the Design-Builder and identified alternative design and construction options. – Started planning for site investigations to support project design.
Three Month Lookahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ongoing collaboration and coordination with BC Hydro. – Prepare for onshore geotechnical investigations. – Complete the preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond.

4.5. First Nations

Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Engage with First Nations on Project matters of interest including economic opportunities and Project design, construction schedule and methodology.
Monthly Highlights:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shared Environmental Assessment materials for review and comment.
Three Month Lookahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Engage with First Nations on Environmental Assessment, including collaborating to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge, and discussing order of events to application submission. – Facilitate introductions with Design-Builder's First Nations lead. – Engage with First Nations during the developmental phase of the Project. – Coordinate opportunities for First Nations' participation in site investigation activities.

4.6. Third Parties

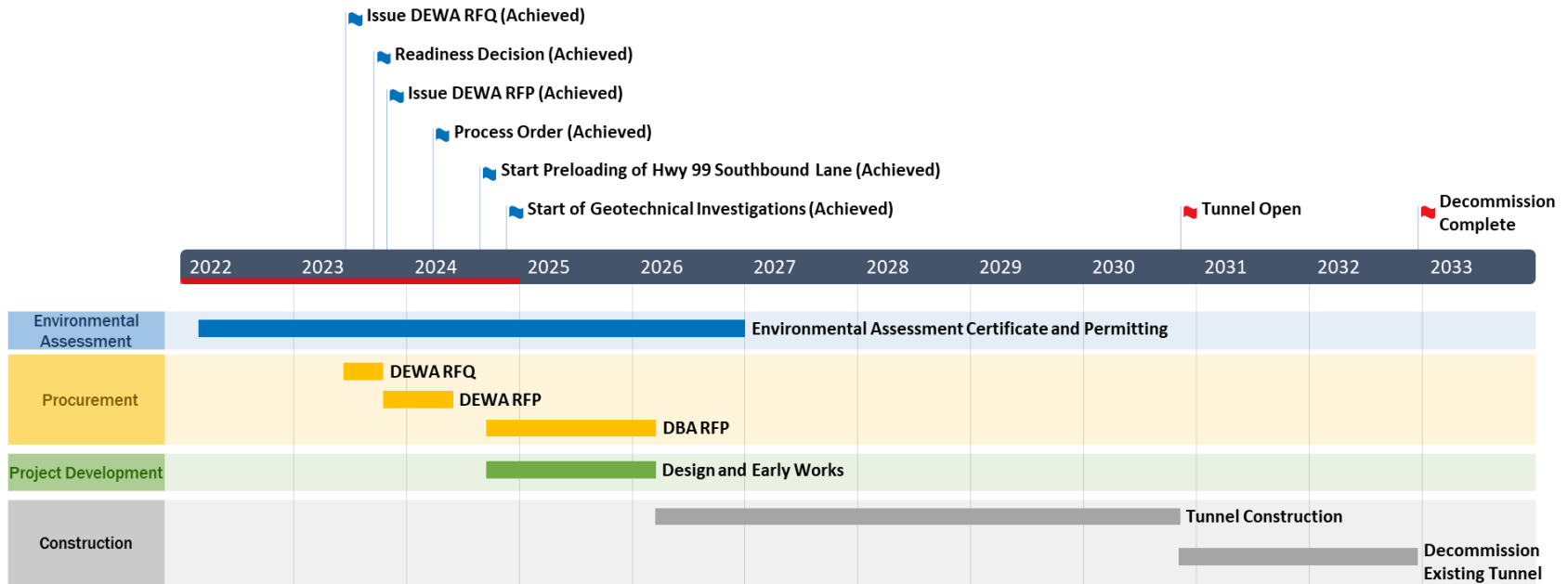
Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide updates to the City of Richmond, City of Delta and Metro Vancouver and deliver Project-specific Municipal Agreements (MAs). – Engage with CN Rail to develop a grade separation reconstruction agreement. – Collaborate with BC Hydro to advance design for the relocation of power lines.
Monthly Highlights:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – City of Richmond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Held meetings with City of Richmond staff. – City of Delta: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Held meetings with City of Delta staff. – Metro Vancouver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Held meetings with Metro Vancouver staff.
Three Month Lookahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continue discussions with municipalities to advance the MAs. – Continue executive discussions with Metro Vancouver representatives. – Continue discussions with CN Rail and BC Hydro.

4.7. Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Scope:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Oversee and manage ongoing communication and engagement with the public and stakeholders.– Develop and implement engagement and communication strategies.– Cultivate relationships with stakeholders.
Monthly Highlights:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Produced and shared public notices about geotechnical investigation, including stakeholder updates.– Provided stakeholder updates regarding the status and highway closures related to the preloading of soil along Highway 99 in Richmond.– Responded to public inquiries at the community office and online.
Three Month Lookahead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Produce the Highway 99 Tunnel Program 2024 spring/summer Community Engagement Summary.– Develop communications and engagement activities to support the upcoming geotechnical investigations through 2024 and early 2025.– Host follow-up discussion with residents in the Riverwoods development.– Meet with City of Richmond Mayor and Council.– Conduct regular stakeholder meetings.

5. Schedule

The following schedule depicts deliverables, milestones and associated dates and timelines for the implementation phase of the Project, as well as anticipated construction timelines.



DEWA: Design Early Work Agreement

6. Project Photos



Figure 1: Crews move concrete barriers into place along Highway 99 in Richmond to contain the preload material.



Figure 2: Crews inspect preload material along Highway 99 in Richmond.