

Minister of Transport,
Infrastructure and Communities



Ministre des Transports,
de l'Infrastructure et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5

JUN 23 2008

His Worship Kurt Alberts
Mayor
Township of Langley
20338-65 Avenue
Langley BC V2Y 3J1

Dear Mr. Alberts:

Thank you for your correspondence of May 27, 2008, regarding the age and capacity of the Fraser River Rail Bridge in New Westminster, British Columbia.

At the outset, I should explain that in early 2007, Transport Canada, in partnership with British Columbia's Ministry of Transportation, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA), TransLink and the Greater Vancouver Gateway Council (GVGC), completed the comprehensive Roberts Bank Rail Corridor (RBRC) Road/Rail Interface Study. Twelve funding agencies, comprising study partners, railways and four municipalities, including the Township of Langley, signed a joint funding Agreement in Principle to implement a \$307-million RBRC Program to construct the nine recommended grade separations from Delta to Langley. As the RBRC is an important element of Canada's Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative (APGCI), the Government of Canada has committed \$75 million to this undertaking. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership during the development stage associated with this project, as well as for your support for the Program.

In conjunction with British Columbia's Ministry of Transportation, the VFPA, TransLink and the GVGC, Transport Canada is currently conducting a comprehensive review of both the North and South Shore rail corridors to identify improvements that will enhance rail operations and support international trade, while minimizing the impact on communities along the corridors. Departmental officials hope to develop, in conjunction with the foregoing organizations, programs to enhance these two essential rail corridors to support the APGCI.

I am aware of the issue identified in your letter related to the Fraser River Rail Bridge. I also understand that TransLink is undertaking a Pattulo Bridge Corridor Study to develop a long-term replacement and/or rehabilitation strategy for the existing bridge. Among the strategies that will be examined is a proposal to combine the Pattulo Bridge and the Fraser River Rail Bridge into a single structure. Allow me to assure you that Transport Canada officials will monitor the study's progress and keep you informed of new developments.

I trust that the foregoing has clarified my position with respect to this matter. Again, thank you for writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence Cannon".

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.

c.c. Mr. Mark Warawa, M.P.
The Honourable Kevin Falcon, M.L.A.