

OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR
KURT ALBERTS

Township of
Langley



Est. 1873

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May 27, 2008

File No. 0400-40

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Tower C - 330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

Dear Minister:

Re: Fraser River Rail Bridge, New Westminster

Concerns have been raised by Council with the age and capacity of the Fraser River Rail Bridge in New Westminister and the capacity restriction that this bridge has placed upon freight traffic within the South of Fraser area. The low level swing bridge was constructed in 1904 at a cost of \$1 million as a double deck road/rail bridge. With the construction of the Patullo bridge in 1937 the upper road deck was decommissioned with the additional load capacity dedicated to rail traffic. The bridge was sold to Public Work Canada in 1938 and is currently maintained and operated by CN Rail.

With the increased freight traffic in the lower mainland and the increased marine traffic on the Fraser River the lack of capacity of this low level swing bridge has restricted the movement of rail. The result is that trains which could be using the bridge are being diverted through Langley which is negatively impacting the community. While the bridge is a fine example of late 19th century engineering which has stood the test of time, the bridge is now over 100 years old and is no longer able to meet the needs of the lower mainland.

Concern has also been expressed with the lack of public transportation options for the South of Fraser Region and in particular the lack of passenger rail. Due to these concerns, and the need to replace the rail bridge, and the Patullo Bridge; these issues should be addressed in a concerted manner.

Due to these concerns and given that the bridge is owned by the Federal government, The Township of Langley Council passed the following motion on May 12, 2008:

Whereas the present rail bridge across the Fraser River at New Westminister is aging and in need of replacement; and

Whereas the present rail bridge can not handle the large container and coal trains heading to or from the Delta Port Terminal;

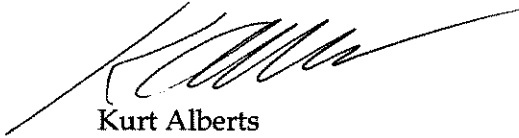
Be it resolved that a letter be sent to the following parties:

- *MP Mark Warawa*
- *Federal Transportation Ministry*
- *Provincial Ministry of Transportation*
- *TransLink*
- *Southern Railway of B.C.*
- *Canadian National Railway*
- *Canadian Pacific Railway*
- *Metro Vancouver*

Strongly encouraging them to commence design and planning for a new crossing of the Fraser that would facilitate future rail traffic needs, including potential rapid transit options, and any future vehicle crossing requirements.

The Township thanks you for your consideration of this issue and looks forward to addressing the issues identified and the replacement of this vital piece of infrastructure within the lower mainland. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paul Cordeiro, Transportation Engineer, at 604-533-6183 or email pcordeiro@tol.bc.ca.

Yours truly,



Kurt Alberts
MAYOR

copy: MP Mark Warawa
Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation, BC
Bob Paddon, TransLink
Fred Green, CP Rail
Harrison Hunter, CN Rail
Kevin Mahoney, BC Southern Rail
Chair, Lois Jackson, Metro Vancouver
Township of Langley Mayor and Council