

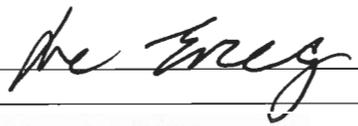


To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** November 15, 2018
From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation **File:** 10-6350-05-08/2018-
Vol 01
Re: **George Massey Tunnel – Update on Independent Technical Review**

Staff Recommendation

That staff be directed to report back upon the release of the Independent Technical Review of the George Massey Tunnel corridor with any further recommendations with a view to advancing the development and implementation of a mutually supportable solution to address congestion along the Highway 99 in a timely manner.

For: 
Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation
(604-276-4131)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Intergovernmental Relations & Protocol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

On November 1, 2017, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (the Ministry) announced that the independent technical review (the Review) of the George Massey Tunnel corridor had commenced. In June 2018, various media reported that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (the Minister) indicated that the report would be received by the end of June, considered over Summer 2018 and a decision made on potential next steps in Fall 2018, at which time the report would likely be released to the public.

On November 14, 2018, the Mayor and senior staff met with Minister Claire Trevena for an update on the status of the Review. This report provides an overview of the meeting.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #3 A Well-Planned Community:

3.3. Effective transportation and mobility networks.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #5 Partnerships and Collaboration:

Continue development and utilization of collaborative approaches and partnerships with intergovernmental and other agencies to help meet the needs of the Richmond community.

Analysis

Meeting with Minister and Release of Review

The Minister advised that the independent technical review (the Review) of the George Massey Tunnel corridor, delivered to the Ministry in June 2018, would be released to the public by the end of 2018. The Review will provide:

- potential crossing improvement options; and
- greater detail regarding the process followed leading to the previously proposed 10-lane bridge.

Given that the previous project was cancelled, the Minister advised that any future crossing improvement option would not include a 10-lane bridge. The Ministry recognizes the significant negative impacts that the scale of such a project would have on the host communities, particularly for Richmond (e.g., proposed 3-level Steveston Highway-Highway 99 Interchange).

With the release of the Review, the Ministry will undertake technical briefings with stakeholders (e.g., Richmond, Delta, TransLink, Metro Vancouver) and engagement with the community. The goal is to work collaboratively to develop a solution to address congestion at the crossing and along the Highway 99 corridor that has the collective support of the region. The preferred option would also address corridor-wide issues regarding transit connections, impacts to local roadways, the scale of the interchanges, and the interface at the Oak Street Bridge.

Next Steps

Following the release of the Review and the planned technical briefings with the Ministry, staff propose to report back on the Review conclusions and provide Council with any further recommendations to advance the development and implementation of a mutually supportable solution in a timely manner.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The City supports an improved crossing at the George Massey Tunnel location, preferably in the form of an improved tunnel, to address traffic congestion in the area as it negatively impacts the region's economy and quality of life for its residents. In support of the Minister's expressed commitment to develop a solution that has the collective support of the region, staff would report back upon the release of the Independent Technical Review of the George Massey Tunnel corridor with any further recommendations to ensure the timely implementation of the preferred option.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Caravan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joan Caravan
Transportation Planner
(604-276-4035)

JC:jc