

BRIDGE SPANS INSTALLED AS CMO PROJECT PASSES HALF-WAY MARK

Port Coquitlam, BC – MARCH 26, 2009... Port Coquitlam's skyline will soon change forever, with the installation of the steel span structures that will support the Coast Meridian Overpass bridge deck.

Starting in early April, contractors SNC Lavalin Constructors (Pacific) Inc. will begin push-launching five span structures, each up to 125 metres in length, over the Canadian Pacific Railway yards. The process will start from the south approach and take up to five months.

"Now that we've just passed the half-way mark in the project's construction, it's exciting to see the CMO starting to take shape before our eyes," noted Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore. "Once it is completed, the CMO will forever change how we travel around our community and through the region."

The push-launch process will utilize hydraulic jacks to push the span structures on rollers over the south embankment. As each span structure is installed, it will become a platform for the installation of the next piece. Cable-stays attached to towers will stabilize the process.

The City's largest-ever transportation infrastructure project, the 580-metre-long CMO will provide a much-needed third north-south route in Port Coquitlam, serving to alleviate traffic and improve access to businesses, homes and services. Construction began in March 2008 and is on track for completion in early 2010.

"A spirit of cooperation has existed from the start, including our funding partnership with TransLink, contracts for local businesses, and timely action by other agencies to allow us to meet the project timelines," Mayor Moore said.

Local businesses benefiting from CMO contracts include Dynamic Structures, Pipe & Piling Supplies Ltd., Standard Electric and LCP Consultants.

Thanks to a positive working relationship with Canadian Pacific Railway, the rail yard works were completed two months ahead of schedule. As well, relocation or upgrades by Terasen, Telus, BC Transmission Corporation, BC Hydro and Shaw have been taking place on the south side to accommodate the project.

Other south-side works in early 2009 have included road and intersection reconstruction along Kingsway Avenue.

The north-side activities – the main focus of 2008 – are now substantially concluded. Work to date has included the Lougheed Highway reconstruction, building of the Lougheed Meridian Connector and roadworks on Coast Meridian Road, including widening, paving and installation of sidewalks and acoustic fences. The City is now finalizing the on-site landscaping and mitigation works, which includes planting ivy on acoustic fences and providing premium cedar fencing to property owners.

A pre-launch kick-off ceremony is planned for Friday, April 3, 10 a.m. at 1711 Kingsway Avenue. The public is invited to attend and get a first-hand look at the construction area.

press release

For more information about the CMO project, please visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/cmo.

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