

Preparing for growing trade

The Port of Vancouver is Canada's largest port. Each day, goods from across Canada arrive at the port by rail and road for export, and imports from around the world arrive to be distributed across Canada. This trade is growing, which means more goods-movement traffic through the Lower Mainland to and from the port.

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, as part of our federal mandate to facilitate Canada's trade objectives, is working with partners on projects that will ensure efficient road and rail networks in the region, and address the impacts of increasing trade, including on safety, congestion, community access and general livability.

Project summary

The Holdom Overpass is part of the Burnaby Rail Corridor Improvements Project - a series of improvements identified by the Greater Vancouver Gateway Council, and Transport Canada as a priority to be upgraded. In 2018, the port authority received funding from Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund to complete design and construction of the Burnaby Rail Corridor Improvements, including the coordination of two CN led rail projects.

The Holdom overpass will mitigate the impacts of growing rail and port trade traffic in Burnaby. When complete, the project will improve safety and community access by creating more reliable travel times and better emergency response options, while improving the fluidity of rail operations in Burnaby to North Vancouver.

The improvements led by the port authority include:

- A four-lane overpass extending Holdom Avenue south over the rail corridor and Still Creek and connecting with Douglas Road

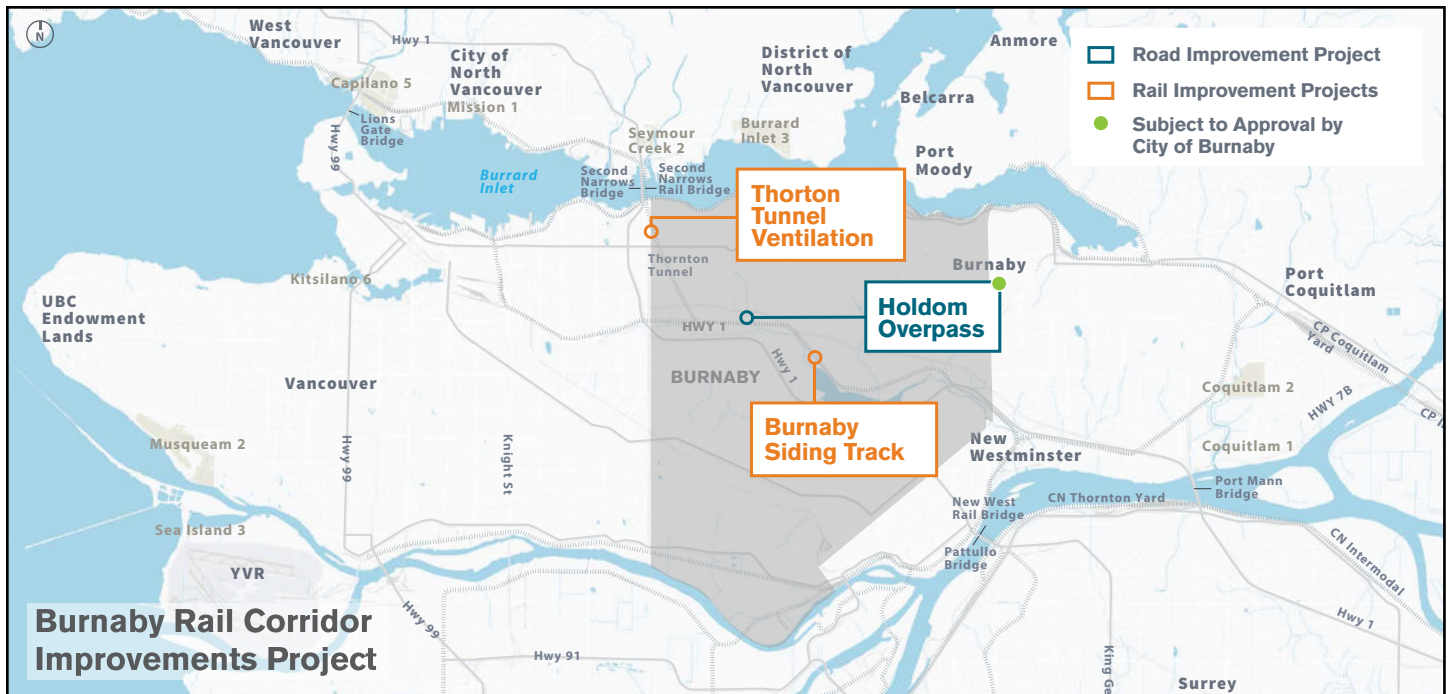
- Closure of the existing Douglas Road rail crossing to vehicles

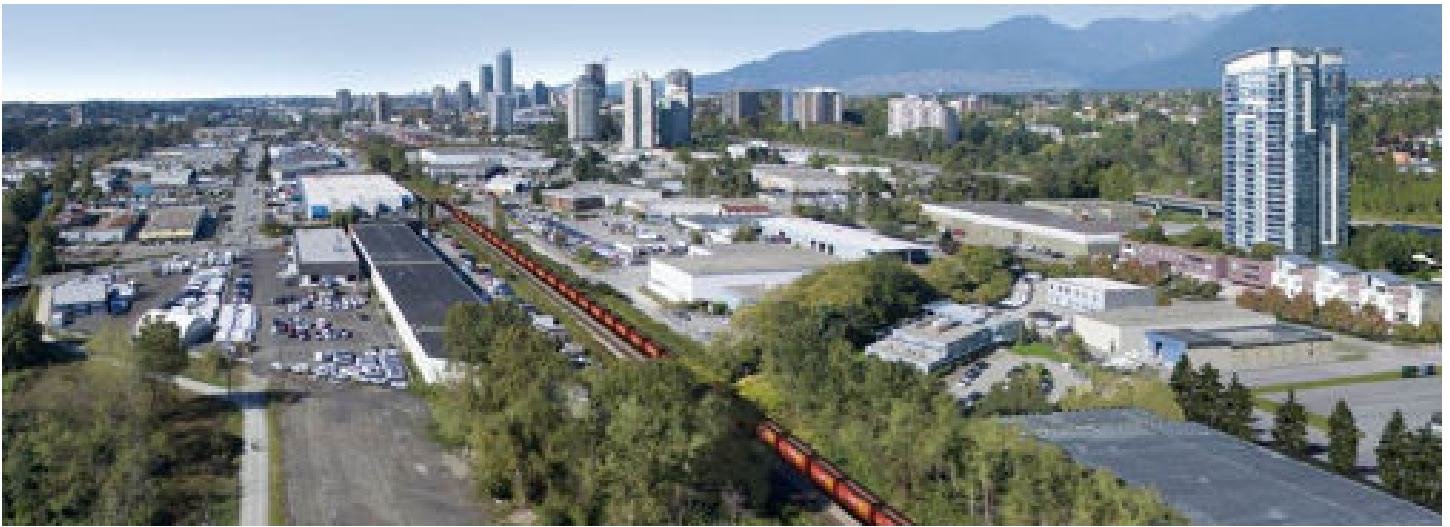
Canadian National (CN) is leading the rail components, including:

- Upgrades to the ventilation system for the Thornton Rail Tunnel
- A new rail siding track running from Willingdon Avenue to Piper Avenue, parallel to the two existing tracks, to accommodate trains accessing the Thornton Tunnel

For any questions or concerns about the rail components or rail operations, please email CN at contact@CN.ca.

The port authority is now focusing on working with Indigenous groups, the City of Burnaby and other stakeholders to undertake technical studies stakeholder and public engagement, advance project design and plan for project construction.

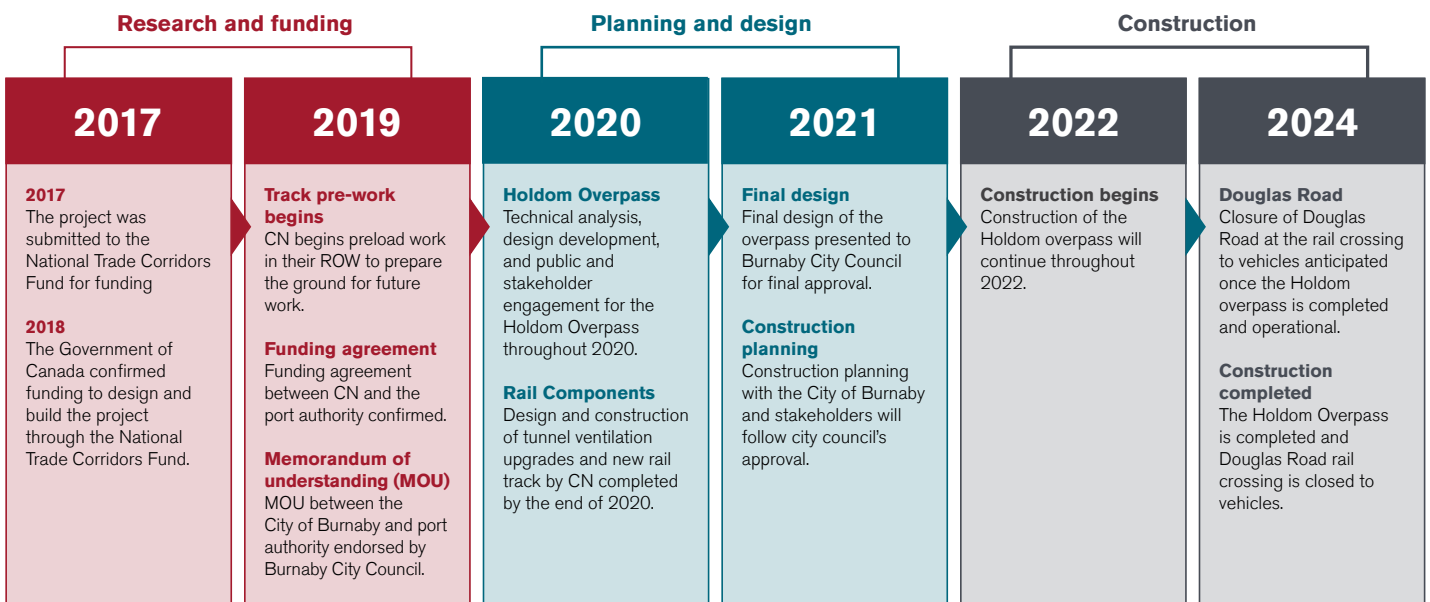




Current



Draft rendering of Holdom Overpass



Timelines are subject to change. For up to date information, visit portvancouver.com/HoldomOverpass

Project benefits

The port authority has a positive track record of delivering high-quality projects based on best practices in sustainability, environmental protection, and engagement. Anticipated benefits of this project include:



Improved public safety

Reduces risk of collisions between trains and pedestrians, cyclists and drivers



Better emergency response

Faster, easier access to incidents for first responders



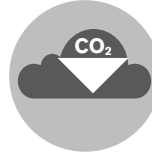
More reliable commute times

Improved reliability of roads by eliminating blockages caused by rail traffic



Reduced congestion

Improves mobility for residents and more efficient movement of goods



Reduced emissions

Reduced emissions and energy use by eliminating vehicle wait times at train crossings



Increased job opportunities

Growth in local jobs via growth in trade



Improved connections for walking and cycling

Enhanced walking and cycling facilities associated with the crossings



Public space improvements

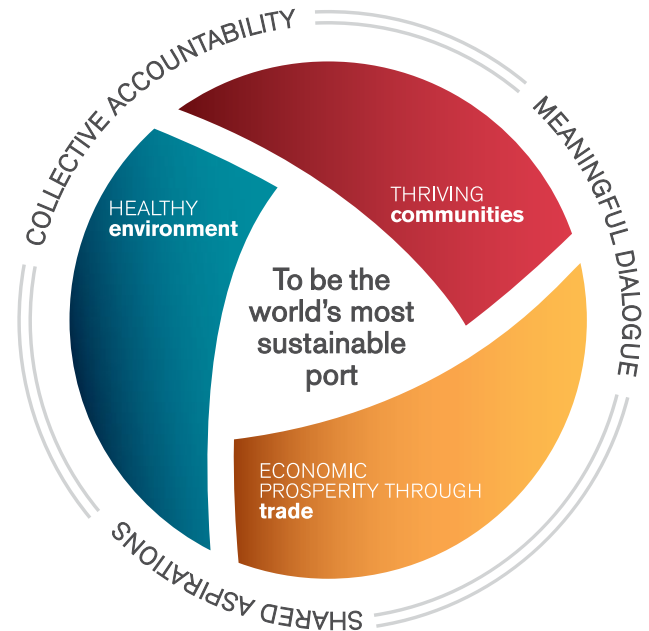
Creation of public space improvements such as Indigenous cultural recognition, public art, seating, integration of native species in landscaping plans, etc.

Working to be the world's most sustainable port

The port authority strives to be a leader in sustainability. As part of this goal, we have created a set of Green Infrastructure Guidelines to help us meet sustainable objectives during the design and construction phases of infrastructure projects. The guidelines align with the port authority's definition of a sustainable gateway and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision framework.

In 2015, the port authority won the Envision Platinum Award from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure for the Low Level Road Project in North Vancouver. The Low Level Road Project included road and rail improvements similar to elements of this project.

Learn more: portvancouver.com/HoldomOverpass



Project partner roles

This project will require collaboration with the City of Burnaby, local Indigenous groups, and CN. We will be working closely with these organizations to deliver the Burnaby Rail Corridor Improvements Project.

This project has three delivery partners:

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Working closely with the City of Burnaby, the port authority will lead technical assessments, design development, and public and stakeholder engagement on the Holdom Avenue overpass and Douglas Street closure.

City of Burnaby

The Holdom overpass was first identified by the City of Burnaby 40 years ago in their transportation plan. Today they are collaborating with the port authority to ensure the project meets the current and future needs of the community and will own and maintain the Holdom overpass when complete.

CN

As the long-term leaseholder from BNSF and a funding partner, CN operates trains on the Westminster Subdivision through Burnaby to North Vancouver. They will lead design and construction of the tunnel ventilation upgrades and new rail siding track. CN is a public company that operates under all applicable Canadian and U.S. regulatory guidelines and standards.

Funding partners

The Burnaby Rail Corridor Improvements Project is part of Greater Vancouver Gateway 2030 strategy, and is funded by the Government of Canada, CN and Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

For more information:

portvancouver.com/HoldomOverpass
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