

July 2020

Portside/Blundell Road Improvements Project

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 goods from around the world arrive to be imported to Canada. Trade is growing, which means more goods-movement traffic through the Lower Mainland to the port.

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



Draft rendering of a widened Blundell Road

Through a collaborative planning process that involved the port authority, CN, the Greater Vancouver Gateway Council, and Transport Canada, the Portside/Blundell corridor was identified as a priority to be upgraded. In 2019, the port authority received funding from Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund to complete design and construction of the Portside/Blundell Road Improvements Project.

The project includes:

- A new **Portside Road overpass** at Blundell Road to eliminate the at-grade CN rail crossing
- **Widening Blundell Road** from two lanes to four lanes, between the No. 8 Road intersection and just west of York Road to help reduce congestion in the growing Fraser Richmond Industrial Lands
- A **new bridge and extension of Portside Road** over the No. 7 Road canal to access a new area of development

The port authority is now focusing on working with Indigenous groups, municipalities and other stakeholders to undertake technical studies and engagement, advance project design, complete project definition and plan for project construction.

Project benefits

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

- **Reduce congestion:** to help improve container movements to and from warehouse facilities
- **Improve emergency response:** for police, fire and ambulance to get to incidents faster and more easily
- **More reliable travel times:** by removing rail crossing delays and improving travel times
- **Improve safety:** by reducing risk of collisions between trains and people walking, cycling and driving
- **Improve connections for walking and cycling:** by adding in facilities as part of design and construction
- **Support future development:** by providing access to undeveloped lands

Project partner roles

Successfully delivering this project will require strong partnerships with the City of Richmond, Indigenous groups, and Canadian National Railway (CN). We will be working closely with them to ensure the project addresses their particular local needs.

This project has three funding partners:

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

The port authority will lead technical assessments, design development, and stakeholder engagement.

Canadian National Railway (CN)

CN is a funding partner and operates trains on the Ewen Industrial Line. CN is a public company that operates under all applicable Canadian and U.S. regulatory guidelines and standards.

Transport Canada

The Government of Canada is a funding partner through the National Trade Corridors Fund.

Timeline

- 2019 – Project successful in receiving funding from the Government of Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund for design and construction
- 2019–2020 – Stakeholder engagement, environmental permits, lease amendments, agreements
- Spring 2020 – Preliminary design, environmental assessments
- 2021 – Construction anticipated to begin
- 2024 – Project completion

Timelines are subject to change.

About the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is responsible for the stewardship of the federal port lands in and around Vancouver, British Columbia. It is financially self-sufficient and accountable to the federal minister of transport and operates pursuant to the *Canada Marine Act*. The port authority's mandate is to facilitate Canada's trade objectives, ensuring goods are moved safely while protecting the environment and considering local communities.

For more information

Sign up online to receive email notifications of project updates.

Online: portvancouver.com/portsideblundellupgrades

Email: community.feedback@portvancouver.com

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