



PORT of
vancouver

Vancouver Fraser
Port Authority

Portside Blundell Road Improvements Project

Online information session questions and answers

July 2022

Canada

Thank you



Thank you to everyone who joined the Portside Blundell Road Improvements Project online information session on June 28, 2022.

At this meeting, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority shared an update about the project, draft designs, and our proposed approach to traffic management during construction. We asked for your feedback and answered your questions.

We have summarized the questions received, along with the answers, in the following pages.

All feedback shared during the session will be considered, with other technical, environmental, and budget considerations, as we refine our proposed project.

What we heard: Key themes

There were common themes among the comments and questions received at the information session. We have grouped these questions by theme, adapted in the interest of clarity, and consolidated to avoid duplication.



Project basics



Project designs



Traffic



Other questions

For any project-related questions not answered here, please [visit our website](#) or contact us: gateway@portvancouver.com



Project basics

When will construction begin and when can we expect disruptions in the area?

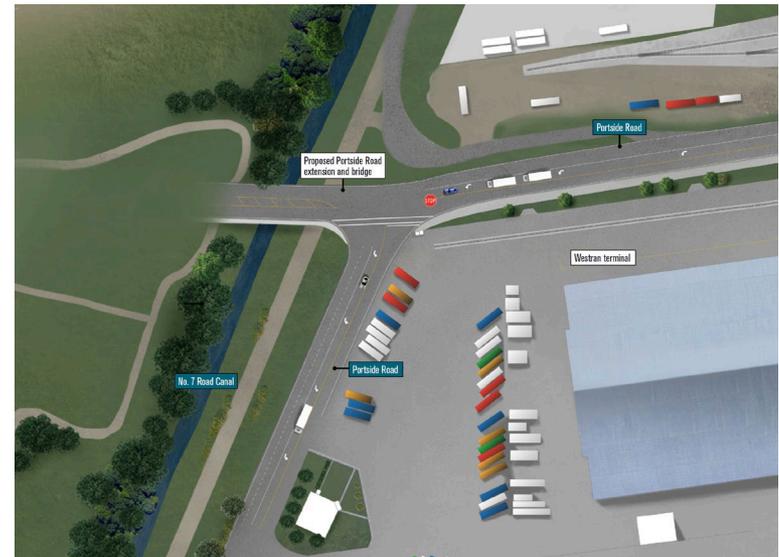
- We expect to start construction in early 2023
- Before starting construction, we need to acquire stakeholder agreements (e.g., with City of Richmond and CN) and regulatory approval from the port authority's project and environmental review process
- When more details are available about the project approval, construction start date, and what to expect during construction, we will send an update via [the project newsletter](#), provide information on our website and issue a notification letter

What is the project delivery method?

- We selected a progressive design-build model to deliver the Portside overpass and Blundell Road widening components of the project. With this model, the contractor comes on board earlier in the design process than the traditional design-build model.
- We have a contract with Ledcor CMI Ltd. to provide pre-construction services (e.g., design development) for the Portside overpass and Blundell Road widening. Ledcor is also the preferred proponent for the construction of this component.
- The port authority is in the process of evaluating delivery options for the Portside extension and bridge. Over the past year, we have heard from key stakeholders and project partners that many of their requirements for this component overlap with the Portside overpass component.
- We expect to finalize the delivery option for the Portside extension and bridge soon. We will update our procurement page when we have more information to share:
portvancouver.com/infrastructureprocurement

Why is the project taking so long?

- The COVID-19 pandemic impacted our ability to complete studies and design, conduct public engagement, and consult with Indigenous groups within the original timeline
- After the first phase of engagement, we decided to prioritize the re-design of the Portside overpass to minimize the impacts on the City of Richmond's infrastructure and address stakeholder interests around traffic and business operations during construction. This process took additional time to complete.





Project designs: Portside overpass

Why did the port authority explore a new design concept for the Portside overpass?

- Using feedback from the first phase of engagement, technical analysis, and feasibility and budget considerations, the port authority decided to explore an alternative design concept that minimizes impacts on the City of Richmond and addresses stakeholder interests regarding traffic and business operations during construction
- The new design will keep traffic flowing during construction, as most of it can be constructed off of the roadways. Blundell Road will continue to operate during construction and traffic on Portside Road will use a detour through the port authority's undeveloped lands to the south.
- The previous design required us to close No.8 Road during construction. Now, we only expect minor traffic disruptions during intersection improvements.

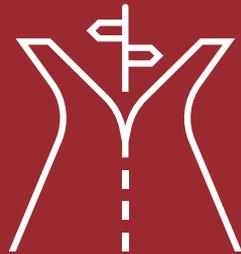
What is the proposed grade of the Portside overpass ramp and will it slow down truck traffic?

- The grade of the overpass ramp will be a maximum of 5%. We selected 5% as it aligns with Transportation Association of Canada's guidelines for commercial traffic and cyclists.
- We do not expect operational impacts with trucks travelling up a 5% grade given that it is for a short distance (approximately 200 metres) and occurs along many roads within the Lower Mainland

What is the proposed height of the Portside overpass, and does it consider future rail opportunities such as double stacked containers?

- The underside of the overpass will be a minimum height of 7 metres above the CN railway tracks below
- The overpass will meet the Canadian Transportation Agency and CN's height requirements for double stacked containers
- We are also working closely with CN to ensure other elements of the overpass design meet CN's current and forecasted operational requirements

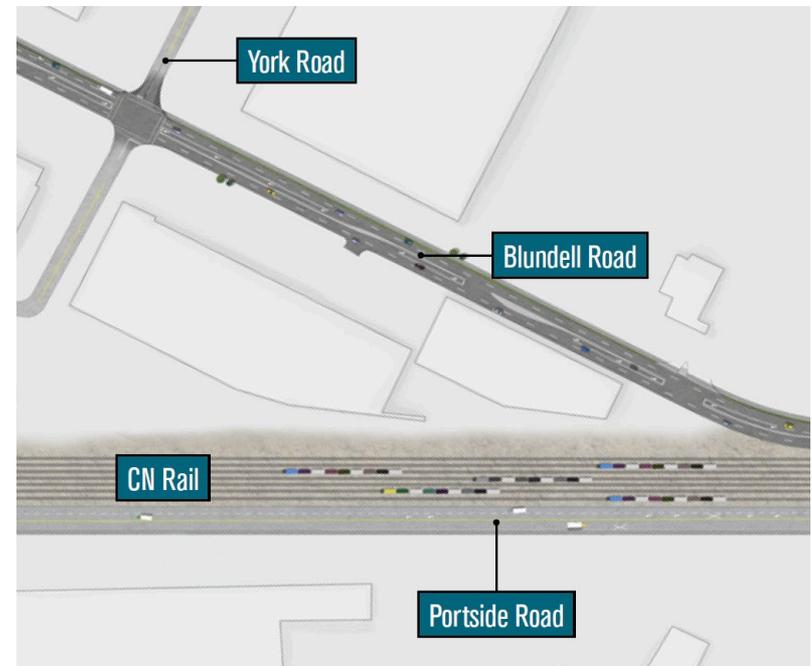




Project designs: Blundell Road widening

How far past York Road will the four lanes continue?

- Throughout the design process we have been working closely with the City of Richmond as they have jurisdiction over Blundell Road
- The four lanes will extend approximately 200 metres west of York Road and then tie into the existing bridge over the No. 7 Road canal





Traffic

What are the expected traffic impacts from construction and how will these be mitigated?

Portside Road

- We have greatly reduced expected construction impacts by re-designing the Portside overpass
- To keep traffic moving, we will construct a Portside Road detour through the undeveloped lands to the south, improving the current geometric conditions at the bend of No. 8 Road to Portside Road
- During construction of the extension and bridge, we are proposing a single lane access to enter Coast 2000 and Westran. Due to this single lane access, a temporary exit route will be constructed for Westran on Portside Road at the eastern end of their property.
- We are also proposing a road detour to the existing alternative emergency exit and a temporary construction road west of the No. 7 Road canal

What are the expected traffic impacts from construction and how will these be mitigated? (continued)

Blundell Road

- We will aim to maintain two lanes of traffic whenever possible. During specific operations, we may need to implement single lane alternating traffic or shift traffic patterns slightly to accommodate construction equipment and personnel.
- We will be using traffic control devices such as delineators and traffic barrels beside active operations. Flagging near the works will be required and may slow traffic at these points.
- We will need to close Blundell Road for brief periods of time to accommodate the installation of girders for the new overpass. This may take place during off-peak hours or overnight to minimize the impact to nearby business operations.

No.8 Road

- We do not expect any closures of No. 8 Road, only minimal traffic impacts during the intersection improvements (e.g., temporary lane closures during off-peak hours)

Traffic management planning and communication

- Feedback received from phase two engagement will inform the construction staging and traffic management plan for the project. We will share this plan as part of phase three engagement sometime between December 2022 and April 2023.
- We will prepare a construction communications plan to ensure early and ongoing communications once construction begins

Will there be a new signalized intersection on Portside Road?

- Based on our analysis of future traffic demands, we are not proposing a signalized intersection where the overpass loop connects to Portside Road

Will this project improve traffic and remove the train crossing at the intersection of Nelson Road and Blundell Road?

- This project includes building a new overpass to cross over the CN rail line and connect Portside Road and Blundell Road
- The project scope does not include modifications to the rail crossing at the Nelson Road and Blundell Road intersection
- In fall 2021, new intersection signals and upgrades to the CN rail crossing were completed. The City of Richmond led the project, please contact them for further information.

Will the proposed new signalized intersection on Blundell Road slow down traffic?

- The new signalized intersection on Blundell Road includes two through lanes in each direction and turn lanes to access the Portside overpass
- The new intersection has been spaced far enough away from the existing No. 8 Road intersection to eliminate interactions between the two
- We expect that the additional lanes on Blundell Road and proposed intersection improvements will lead to improved traffic flow along Blundell Road between York Road and No. 8 Road



Is vehicle traffic projected to increase in the project area?

- Vehicle traffic will increase due to general trade growth. Over the next 10 years, development of port lands and the Richmond Industrial Centre (west of the project area) will lead to increased traffic volume on Blundell Road and within the Fraser Richmond industrial lands.
- The proposed road improvements will provide the necessary infrastructure to support this development, ensure efficient and reliable goods movement, and facilitate increased trade and employment

Will the project lead to more rail traffic?

- Separating road and rail is expected to increase operational efficiency and capacity of CN's rail operations
- The port authority does not have jurisdiction over rail operations, please contact CN directly for more information about its operations





Other questions

Will preloading be required for the project?

- The original Portside overpass concept included significant impacts and construction activities along Blundell Road, No.8 Road, and Portside Road
- We re-designed the overpass and moved it further west of the intersection, significantly reducing the potential construction impacts to these roadways
- We do not expect any preloading requirements along Blundell Road, No. 8 Road, or Portside Road as embankment fills for the overpass will predominately be on port authority lands

What are the utility impacts for the new overpass concept? Will there be potential power outages?

- We are planning to conduct field investigations this summer to better understand the utility locations in the project area at which time we will have a better understanding of whether any utility service disruptions will be required during construction
- We will work closely with utility providers to minimize or avoid any utility service interruptions



Why is the port authority proposing a multi-use path in a busy industrial area?

- Active transportation is a high priority for the City of Richmond, so we are proposing a multi-use path along to north side of Blundell Road and south side of Portside Road
- We expect the multi-use path will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists as they will have a dedicated space separate from the road
- During design and construction, we will conduct a road safety audit which will review the multi-use path design and make recommendations to improve safety



Questions outside the project scope

The following responses were developed in collaboration with the City of Richmond. Please contact the municipality for further information

Are any improvements proposed for Nelson Road, the main truck route in and out of the Fraser Richmond industrial lands?

- Nelson Road is under the City of Richmond's jurisdiction. The City of Richmond is not planning any improvements to Nelson Road at this time.

Will Blundell Road extend west and connect to Westminster Highway?

- Blundell Road is under the City of Richmond's jurisdiction. The City of Richmond does not have any plans to extend Blundell Road west to connect to Westminster Highway.

Are there any plans to allow truck traffic on No.8 Road or Westminster Highway?

- The City of Richmond advised there are no plans to allow truck traffic on these roads due to existing weight restrictions

Share your feedback



Please share your feedback by **July 25, 2022**

You can:

- Review project information at: portvancouver.com/portsideblundellengagement
- Complete the online survey at: portvancouver.com/portsideblundellengagement
- Sign up for the project newsletter on our website for regular updates
portvancouver.com/portsideblundellupgrades
- Email us at: gateway@portvancouver.com
- Phone us at:
604.665.9004



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