

# Enhancing marine safety in the Second Narrows to accommodate growing trade



As part of its federal mandate to facilitate Canada's trade, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority collaborates with industry stakeholders and port users to optimize ship movements at the Port of Vancouver for greater fluidity, cargo capacity, and overall supply chain efficiency. Central to this work is streamlining ship transits to and from the 23 marine terminals in Burrard Inlet to help reduce dwell times at anchor, port congestion and related impacts on neighbouring communities and the environment.

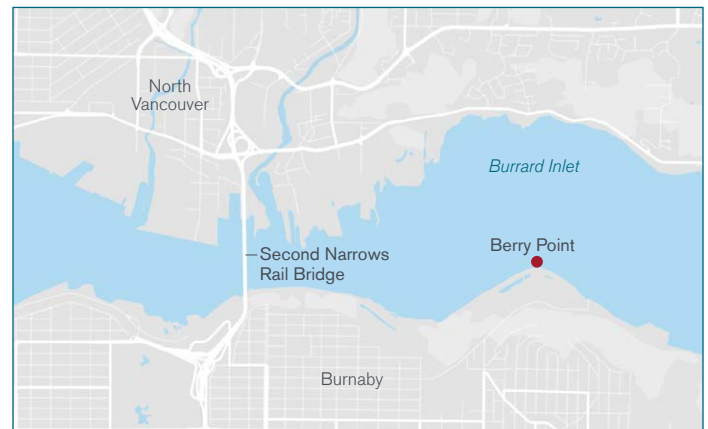
By doing so, the port authority is enhancing the reliability of the maritime supply chain at the Port of Vancouver and ensuring it continues to efficiently accommodate growing demands.

## New navigation aids in eastern Burrard Inlet

Building on the ongoing optimization of commercial ship traffic in Burrard Inlet enabled by the [Active Vessel Traffic Management Program](#), the port authority is further enhancing navigational safety in the Second Narrows shipping channel by installing new navigation aids. This work, to be completed in 2024, includes:

- Installing two solar-powered range lights and a sector light near Berry Point
- Illuminating the pillars of the Second Narrows Rail Bridge

Through visual cues, these new navigation aids will assist ship captains and pilots in maintaining their course when moving through the Second Narrows waterway and improve transit safety for ships calling terminals in eastern Burrard Inlet. They will also provide the necessary safety measures for cargo ships ready to take on cargo to move through the Second Narrows beyond daylight hours, increasing transit fluidity and flexibility in this key trade corridor.



*Second Narrows waterway at Berry Point, where the range lights and sector light will be installed*

## What are range lights?

Range lights provide spatial reference points to cargo ships transiting through confined waters such as the Second Narrows waterway. Captains and pilots use these visual markers to centre ships within navigational channels and maintain safe courses. Because their glow is only visible to large ships in transit, range lights are non-disruptive to surrounding communities and ecosystems.



## About the Second Narrows navigation channel

Located in the heart of the Port of Vancouver's inner harbour, the Second Narrows waterway runs under the Second Narrows Rail Bridge and connects the western and eastern parts of Burrard Inlet. Hundreds of cargo ships calling the seven marine terminals in eastern Burrard Inlet transit through the Second Narrows every year, making this navigation channel a key trade corridor for commodities such as petroleum products, potash, sulphur, lubricants, and sea salt, as well as for the local and national economies. Stringent safety procedures and requirements are in place in this busy waterway, including mandatory tug escorts and supervision from highly trained local marine pilots, to ensure all commercial ships can move through these waters safely and efficiently.

## Enabling safer and more efficient goods movement by ships

Once installed, the navigation aids at Berry Point and the Second Narrows Rail Bridge will help:



**Strengthen marine safety**  
for the benefit of all port users and local communities



**Improve the efficiency and reliability of the flow of goods**  
through enhanced ship traffic fluidity



**Alleviate the demand for daytime ship transits**  
in the busy Second Narrows and associated port congestion



**Reduce the need to anchor and associated dwell times**  
for ships calling marine terminals in eastern Burrard Inlet

## For more information

Learn more about how the port authority is increasing ship traffic fluidity and optimizing key trade corridors within the Port of Vancouver, including the Second Narrows.



Visit our website:  
[portvancouver.com/marine-operations/avtm](https://portvancouver.com/marine-operations/avtm)



Email our team:  
[avtm@portvancouver.com](mailto:avtm@portvancouver.com)

## About the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is the federal agency responsible for the shared stewardship of the Port of Vancouver. Our mandate is to facilitate Canada's trade objectives, ensuring goods are moved safely through the Port of Vancouver while protecting the environment and considering local communities.

[Learn more](#) 



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