

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

For immediate release - November 6, 2013

At the November 4, 2013 Regular Meeting, Delta Council authorized staff to continue working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on the George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project to leverage opportunities and address local concerns. [View the staff report](#)

“A new crossing is long overdue and eagerly anticipated by Delta residents and businesses,” said Mayor Lois E. Jackson. “This will resolve one of the worst transportation bottlenecks in the region and we will continue work closely with the Ministry to ensure its full potential is realized.”

The George Massey Tunnel opened in 1959 and is a key component of the regional and provincial transportation system. According to 2006 data, the tunnel facilitates the passage of nearly 22,000 vehicles per lane each day, more than almost all other river crossings in the Pacific Northwest and Alberta. This volume of vehicles results in severe congestion, leading to routine queue lengths of 1.5 to 5 kilometres. The congestion at the tunnel was estimated to cost the provincial economy \$66 million in 2008 and the cost is estimated to rise to \$100 million by 2041.

The George Massey Tunnel section has also proven to have a high rate of vehicle collisions. In a 2009 study, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure found that the tunnel section of Highway 99 had an average of between 35 and 60 collisions per million vehicle kilometres, which is extremely high compared with the provincial average rate of 0.9 collisions per million vehicle kilometres.

Multiple independent studies dating back to 1991 have recognized the need for expansion or replacement of the tunnel. In light of recent and continued population growth south of the Fraser River, including an increase of 73,000 people in Surrey between the 2006 census and the 2011 census, the need for a new crossing has never been greater.

A new crossing would effectively address the combined financial, time, and safety costs of the George Massey Tunnel and enhance the lives of Delta residents while improving goods movement and business opportunities south of the Fraser River.

For more information on this news release, contact the Mayor’s Office at 604-946-3210 or e-mail mayor@delta.ca

- 30 -



The Corporation of Delta
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta, BC V4K 3E2
(604) 946-4141
www.delta.ca

Like us on
[facebook.com/CorpofDelta](https://www.facebook.com/CorpofDelta)



Follow us on
twitter.com/CorpDelta



Watch us on
[youtube.com/CorpDelta](https://www.youtube.com/CorpDelta)

