



## Fraser River Tunnel Project: Early Construction Works Begin



### Early Construction Works

As work continues on the new toll-free, eight-lane replacement of the George Massey Tunnel, crews are beginning early construction by preparing the Project site and making room for the new highway alignment.

The new tunnel will address congestion through wider lanes, eliminating inefficiencies with the existing counter-flow system, and providing a consistent eight-lane highway configuration going in and out of the tunnel from Highway 17 in Delta to Westminster Highway in Richmond.

The new high-capacity tunnel and related highway upgrades will boost speeds along the corridor to 80 km/h, compared to 30 km/h today during peak times.

To create space for this critical transportation investment, tree-clearing activities are underway and will continue for approximately three months. Tree clearing is necessary to make room for the new, larger tunnel, which is being built beside the existing tunnel.

Within Deas Island Regional Park, about 0.2 hectares will be permanently cleared, which is roughly one-third of a soccer field. About four hectares will be temporarily cleared for construction purposes, which is less than five per cent of the park, and will be restored with extensive environmental remediation in collaboration with Metro Vancouver. Small parcels will also be cleared in Delta and Richmond.

Additional early construction activities will follow, including building temporary structures to reduce construction-related traffic on roads. The structures include three jetties to allow materials and equipment to be delivered by boat, and a temporary access bridge on the east side of the existing

Deas Slough Bridge. Crews will also relocate utilities, develop the Project site, and carry out ground improvements to support construction of the casting basin.

These works are permitted through an order under the Environment and Land Use Act and will continue as the Project nears the end of the application review stage of the environmental assessment process with the Environmental Assessment Certificate expected by the end of this year.

While continuing to advance through the Environmental Assessment and finalizing the Project's design, the Province has already negotiated agreements with local governments, acquired properties, and completed extensive site investigations in preparation for construction.

Further details will be provided as the early construction works progress. Details, including traffic and trail disruptions, will be posted on the [Current Work](#) webpage.

#### **Questions and Contact**

Throughout the life of the project, notifications will be distributed by email and posted on our website. If you have not already, please sign up for e-notifications at [Highway99Tunnel.ca/Newsletter](http://Highway99Tunnel.ca/Newsletter).