

# sea-TO-SKY

## HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

### FACT SHEET

September, 2004

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#### Sea-to-Sky Highway Improvement Project

The Sea-to-Sky Highway needs **safety, reliability** and **capacity improvements**. The highway links West Vancouver, Horseshoe Bay, Lions Bay, Furry Creek, Britannia Beach, Squamish, Brackendale and Whistler.

- **Accident rates:** The frequency and severity of accidents along the highway are substantially higher than the provincial average for comparable roads: there are 300 accidents each year on the highway.
- **Unreliable:** Closures due to accidents or other unforeseen incidents like rock slides are even more disruptive during peak periods, as queues take longer and longer to dissipate.
- **Capacity:** The highway needs capacity improvements to improve safety. Highway users driving from West Vancouver to Whistler are hampered by lack of passing lanes and winding roads. Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes between Horseshoe Bay and Squamish are forecast to increase from 13,700 to 22,000 by 2025 (a 62% increase). Between Squamish and Whistler, AADT volumes are forecast to increase from 7,700 to 12,000 by 2025 (a 56% increase).<sup>1</sup>
- **Population Growth:** There is a great need for more passenger capacity in the corridor now and increased need in the future. Official community plans along the corridor indicate a growth in population of almost double current levels, or 94% over the next 25 years.
- **Economic development:** Lack of reliability due to traffic delays and safety issues hampers economic development and new job creation along the corridor.

#### The 100-kilometre, \$600-million highway improvement project will:

- **Reduce accidents:** Highway improvements will reduce the number and severity of accidents. Currently there are approximately 300 accidents each year on the highway. Safety improvements will result in 30% fewer accidents per year.

- **Improve reliability:** Reliability improvements will increase safety, reduce delays and enhance traffic flow by widening the highway, improving sightlines, widening shoulders, reducing wind exposure, reducing rain pooling on the road surface, and reducing the amount of debris that is washed onto the road surface. These improvements will serve population growth, economic development in corridor communities, and increasing demand for resident travel, visitor travel, and goods movement.
- **Improve capacity:** Travel time will be reduced by approximately 15 minutes between Horseshoe Bay and Whistler by 2010, making the movement of people and goods more efficient and less costly.
- **Increase corridor population** by about 11,000, making future economic developments, residential developments and business activity more viable.
- **Facilitate economic development:** Potential developments under consideration, for example, include the Sea-to-Sky University, Garibaldi Resort, and Squamish Port Development.
- **Improve access for emergency services**, such as fire and ambulance, along the corridor.
- **Create 6,000 new jobs** as a result of economic activity generated along the Corridor.
- **Increase provincial GDP** by \$300 million over the period of 2010 to 2025

**For more information:**

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