



News Release

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TransLink Selects Preferred Proponent for Golden Ears Bridge

TransLink, The Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority, Board of Directors today selected Golden Crossing Group as the preferred proponent to design, build, finance, operate, maintain and rehabilitate the Golden Ears Bridge and associated road network.

“This group of companies brings together tremendous international transportation expertise combined with extensive local experience in Greater Vancouver and British Columbia,” said TransLink Chair Doug McCallum. “The rigorous evaluation process provides us with confidence Golden Crossing Group has the technical and financial capability to successfully deliver on its proposal.”

The Golden Crossing Group provided the best-value proposal, meeting service and performance standards at the lowest cost to the region. Its fixed-price proposal assumes responsibility for construction cost overruns, on-time delivery and operating performance.

A low-profile adaptation of the successful Alex Fraser cable-stayed bridge, the Golden Crossing Group’s design for the Golden Ears Bridge will incorporate a simpler cabling system that eases construction and maintenance. Its composite steel deck frame is lighter and less expensive than more traditional concrete superstructure alternatives. A four-tower design allows one less pier in the river, lessening impacts to navigation and the environment.

The Golden Crossing Group’s design reflects the importance and unique social, physical and natural features of the area and its namesake mountain peaks. Lighted totems, golden eagle sculptures and a “fish-trap” handrail will distinguish the bridge and road network and create a sense of the unique character for the project.

“It is exciting to move forward with a proposal that reflects the uniqueness of the community,” said Golden Ears Bridge Project Director Fred Cummings. “We anticipate construction of the new bridge and road network to start in the spring of 2006.”

The Golden Crossing Group is comprised of highly-qualified local and international firms. It is led by Bilfinger Berger BOT Inc., a wholly owned Canadian subsidiary of Bilfinger Berger BOT GmbH. Bilfinger Berger is one of the world’s largest transportation contractors and has led teams on internationally renowned transportation projects.

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Finalizing the agreement with the Golden Crossing Group will take place over the next several months with financial close scheduled for February 2006.

“We are proud to have been chosen to partner with TransLink to deliver the Golden Ears Bridge and related road infrastructure,” said Bilfinger Berger BOT Inc. president, John McArthur. “All members of our team are committed to ensuring delivery of a signature bridge and a model partnership.”

Scheduled to open in June 2009, the Golden Ears Bridge will provide a six-lane toll bridge across the Fraser River, connecting Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge with Surrey and Langley. The new bridge and associated road network will result in improved north-south access to regional centres and major trade routes such as the Trans Canada Highway. It will benefit the entire region by opening up access to employment, markets, services, facilities and recreational opportunities.

TransLink is the region’s transportation authority, committed to working with communities and all levels of government to build an integrated transportation network that will improve the movement of goods and people through the Greater Vancouver region. TransLink supports the regional growth strategy, air quality objectives and economic development of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

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Attachment:
Golden Ears Bridge Backgrounder, December 7, 2005
Golden Ears Bridge Artist’s Rendering