

SOUTH FRASER PERIMETER ROAD PROJECT COMMUNITY UPDATE



SFPR AND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Part of provincial, regional and municipal plans for decades; the South Fraser Perimeter Road is now a reality. Following 10 years of planning and construction, Phase 1 of this important east-west connection south of the Fraser River, from 176 Street to 136 Street in Surrey opened to traffic on December 1, 2012. This represents about 10km of what will be an almost 40km long expressway, once fully open.

While many people are celebrating the long-awaited opening of phase 1 of the project and its related travel-time savings, there is another cause for celebration. Throughout the SFPR corridor, environmental protection and enhancements have been a key part of the SFPR Project from design to implementation.

This community update provides an overview of key environmental enhancement areas throughout the SFPR corridor that were made possible as a result of this important road infrastructure project. For more information, please visit the project website at www.sfprconstruction.ca.

PROJECT-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS

Construction of the South Fraser Perimeter Road includes environmental enhancements that will reconnect land in Surrey and Delta to the Fraser River and significantly improve habitat for birds, wildlife, fish and amphibians. Additionally, careful attention was made to protect Burns Bog and help improve water quality and hydrology within the bog.

Specifically, these environmental improvements include:

- More than 46 enhancement sites
- 25 wildlife crossings
- 6 bridges spanning environmentally sensitive ravines
- 1 wetlands bridge
- Vegetated berms
- Bumble bee habitat near agricultural areas to help with local crop pollination
- Hedgerows to promote high flight patterns for birds
- Riparian planting throughout the corridor
- Almost 30,000 trees planted to date, with another 30,000 to be planted

Upon completion of SFPR, the St. Mungo and Glenrose archaeological sites will be better protected and recognized through a Recognition/Interpretive Area that will celebrate and commemorate the culture and heritage of local First Nations and the fishing history of the surrounding community.

KEY PROJECTS OF NOTE



BURNS BOG

The SFPR travels adjacent to Burns Bog in Delta and includes numerous enhancements to help manage the bog, which is a critically important and highly-valued environmentally protected area. These include:

- Drainage infrastructure, including water control gates and a water balance model to help actively manage water levels in and around Burns Bog.
- Wildlife crossings, which allow for movement of wildlife across the corridor.
- Protective berms have been constructed that reduce the amount of mineral water reaching the bog by 95 percent.

Ongoing work continues with the Corporation of Delta, Burns Bog Management Committee, and the Ministry of Environment.

AWARD-WINNING LANDFILL CLOSURE PROJECT

The section of the new highway from 80 Street to 96 Street traverses a number of former landfill sites, which were contaminated and unusable for many years. In cooperation with the Corporation of Delta and private landowners, five under-used industrial land areas were revitalized. Sections of the landfills were safely and securely closed and covered, and a robust leachate and methane gas collection system was designed to improve the environment in the area. The system allows adjacent landfill owners to connect to it so they can cap and close their own landfills and develop industrial land. Presently, adjacent landowners are in various stages of landfill completion. Important industrial development in this area is already taking place, making the site both an environmental and socioeconomic success.

In addition to supporting industrial development, this initiative also increases protection for Burns Bog by reducing the risk of leachate and fire. The Landfill Closure Project received an award of merit from the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of British Columbia in 2012 and the Corporation of Delta was honoured with the Canadian Urban Institute's 2012 Brownfield Project of the Year.





DELTA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

As part of the SFPR project, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure purchased and enhanced a forested area in Delta, approximately 800 metres in length, from Burns Bog to River Road near the Fraser River. This area, located between developed lands, has been established as a wildlife corridor for the long-term benefit of a variety of different wildlife species ranging from small mammals and songbirds to deer, providing a vital ecological link between areas near Burns Bog and the Fraser River.

In addition to a number of wildlife enhancements, a drainage channel was established within the corridor to help facilitate surface water runoff. The design of the channel facilitates growth of native vegetation.

ALEX FRASER TIDAL WETLAND

The SFPR Project includes construction of the Alex Fraser Tidal Wetland, on the northern shoreline of the Fraser River on Annacis Island under the Alex Fraser Bridge. This wetland consists of high value habitat that provides a nursery and rearing home for young salmon and other fish, and is also used by aquatic insects and birds. This wetland has been thriving since it was constructed in 2009.



COMMUNITY RAIN GARDEN

A Rain Garden was also established near the lower reaches of Cougar Creek under the Alex Fraser Bridge, and near the trailhead of the Delta Nature Reserve Trail. Approximately 450 native shrubs and trees were planted to help with water-runoff management and to provide aesthetic improvements to the trailhead area. The rain garden was a joint effort by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and volunteers from the Delta Burnsvie Secondary School and the Cougar Creek Streamkeepers.



MANSON CANAL TIDAL WETLAND

The Manson Canal Tidal Wetland fish and wildlife enhancement site within Tannery Road Park converted low-value habitat into high-quality intertidal and riparian habitat that provides a rearing home for young salmon and other fish. The wetland also includes cattails and other native marsh plants, and riparian planting with native shrubs and trees has also taken place. Tidal marsh habitat is a particularly valuable ecological feature within the lower Fraser River.



CRESCENT SLOUGH ENHANCEMENT

This 1km-long enhancement area restored connectivity between north and south portions of the Slough, allowing for natural water flow. The enhancement also includes native shrubs and trees planted on both sides of the channel, large woody debris and seasonal ponds to create breeding habitat for native amphibians, bat and birds nest boxes and a wildlife crossing to promote passage to and from wildlife habitat areas.

BON ACCORD CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

SFPR improvements at this existing salmon stream include off-channel ponds that will provide rearing habitat for juvenile salmon, while plantings of trees and cedar snags along the shore will benefit a variety of local bird species. Enhancements also include ponds for fish, amphibians, songbird nest boxes, and bat roost boxes.



CENTRE CREEK CROSSING

This low level, split bridge takes SFPR over Centre Creek. It was designed and built to protect wetland areas and to allow the natural sunlight to filter down to the wetlands below, helping to support wildlife and vegetation. Its top-down construction ensured minimal disturbance to the existing habitat. Immediately to the west of this crossing, stream enhancements, back channels and pools were constructed to provide rearing and habitat for salmonids. This site provides fish habitat that connects to the Fraser River.

Approximately 40km long, South Fraser Perimeter Road is a new four-lane, 80km/hr route along the south side of the Fraser River from Deltaport Way in southwest Delta to 176th Street (Hwy 15) in Surrey, with connections to Highways 1, 91, 99, and TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge.

The route takes a significant step towards improving Metro Vancouver's major road network. It will benefit commuters, the trucking industry and tourists by connecting primary gateway facilities as well as facilitating access to borders, the Tsawwassen ferry terminal and the B.C. Interior.

SFPR offers goods movers an efficient transportation corridor, while restoring municipal roads as community connectors by reducing truck and other traffic on municipal road networks in Delta and Surrey, improving quality of life for residents and local businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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