

Perimeter road receives environmental approval Project opponents appalled certificate granted

Frank Luba

The Province

Friday, July 25, 2008

VANCOUVER -- Opponents of the South Fraser Perimeter Road vowed to continue their fight against the provincial project after it was announced Friday the 80-kilometre connection between Surrey and Delta had received its environmental assessment certificate.

The new four-lane road, which is part of the province's controversial Gateway Program, is expected to cost \$1 billion -- \$300 million for property acquisition and \$700 million for construction.

Running along the south side of the Fraser River, the road helps connect Deltaport with Highways 1, 91 and 99, as well as TransLink's new tolled Golden Ears Bridge.



CREDIT: Handout

A drawing of the Fraser Heights section of the South Fraser Perimeter Road.

It hasn't attracted the same attention as other Gateway projects, like twinning the Port Mann Bridge and widening the Trans-Canada Highway, but South Fraser foes say it will ruin neighborhoods like Sunbury and Annieville, as well as impact environmentally sensitive Burns Bog.

Eliza Olson, president of the Burns Bog Conservation Society, was aghast the certificate approval was announced on the eve of this weekend's 17th International Bog Days.

"We'll have a petition out there [at Bog Days]," she promised as an immediate response to the granting of the certificate.

"I'm appalled at the premier," said Olson. "He ran in 2001 on protecting the bog.

"I've got pictures of him walking with me, promising to protect the bog."

Olson said the road plan is flawed.

"They [the province] based their plans on 80-cents-per-litre gas," she said of information revealed through a Freedom of Information request. "We're not going to see that again."

Olson also believes much of the shipping to Deltaport will divert to Prince Rupert once its port expansion is complete in 2012, lessening the need for the South Fraser road.

But she also railed against what she saw as hypocrisy coming out of Victoria.

"You're going to put a carbon tax on everybody, and then you turn around and destroy the

largest carbon sink in the Lower Mainland, probably the west coast of North America." said Olson

Also surprised by the certificate news was Don Hunt of the Sunbury Neighborhood Association.

"It's not over yet," said Hunt.

"They have to get federal approval," he said in reference to the Departments of Transportation and Fisheries and Oceans.

Hunt was also surprised that the project received its certificate while it was still being reviewed by provincial ombudsman Kim Carter for what he called "misinformation" about the project.

More details about the environmental certificate can be found at www.eao.gov.bc.ca.

Details about the opposition to the project is available at www.savedelta.ca.

fluba@theprovince.com

© The Vancouver Province 2008

CLOSE WINDOW

Copyright © 2008 CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#). All rights reserved.
CanWest Interactive, a division of [CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc.](#). All rights reserved.