

October 31, 2019

Metro Vancouver
Board of Directors
Metrotower III, 4730 Kingsway,
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6

Dear Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

Re: GEORGE MASSEY CROSSING

Our colleagues from the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Vancouver Board of Trade have recently written letters to the Mayors Council advocating for a bridge to replace the George Massey Tunnel (GMT). Their rationale is based on the fact there has been a great body of work and studies completed for the GMT replacement that concluded the best option is a bridge and that an Immersed Tube Tunnel (ITT) would require further studies and trigger an environmental assessment that would further delay the replacement of the GMT.

The Delta Chamber of Commerce cannot disagree with our colleague's advocacy for a bridge. However, our focus is not advocating for a specific process or solution. We are advocating for the certainty that this critical piece of infrastructure will be replaced, quickly, cost effectively and with the capacity to handle our transportation needs well beyond 2050.

The delayed decisions of whether it's going to be a tunnel or a bridge, 8 lanes vs 10 lanes and a cost of \$3 Billion or more is being overshadowed by the uncertainty of when this new crossing will be in place and is affecting our economic growth in Delta. Companies south of the Fraser are holding back on capital expenditures to scale their businesses because of the lack of clarity around the GMT replacement. Delta's ability to attract businesses to Delta is becoming more difficult as this project drags on with no end date in sight.

The Delta business community has a growing level of uncertainty caused by global trade disputes, tax increases, the rising costs of housing, diminishing labour force and lack of industrial lands. The Delta Chamber of Commerce requests that the Mayor's Council and the Province expeditiously remove the uncertainties around the GMT replacement and make a decision that will deliver a fast, cost-effective and long-term solution with a specific timeline for this important crossing.

The future of our Delta economy depends on your leadership to bring a timely close and certainty on the subject of replacing the George Massey Tunnel.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Anderson
Chair – Board of Directors - Delta Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Mayor and Council – City of Delta
Board of Directors – Delta Chamber of Commerce
Garry Shearer, Executive Director – Delta Chamber of Commerce.