

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2026

Mayor George Harvie Calls for Transparency and Certainty Following Provincial Fraser River Tunnel Procurement Announcement

Delta, BC - Mayor George Harvie is calling on the Province of British Columbia to provide greater transparency and clarity following Minister Mike Farnworth's announcement regarding the restructuring of the procurement process for the Fraser River Tunnel Project.

"Minister Farnworth's announcement raises more questions than answers," said Mayor Harvie. "The public deserves to know whether this procurement restructuring will keep the project on track for completion by 2030, or whether British Columbians are being asked to wait even longer for a replacement crossing that is already years overdue."

While the Province has reiterated that the Fraser River Tunnel Project remains a priority and continues to move forward, the announcement has generated significant concerns regarding the project's timeline, cost, and overall delivery.

"This crossing is far more than a transportation project," Harvie said. "It is essential infrastructure for Delta, the Tilbury industrial area, future economic growth, regional goods movement, and the hundreds of thousands of people who depend on this crossing every year to travel to work, school, medical appointments, and other commitments on both sides of the Fraser River."

The Province has indicated that early works, including utility relocations and tree clearing, are currently underway, with approximately 200 workers on site. Major construction is now expected to begin in 2027, with a target opening date of 2030.

"However, with the Province now restructuring procurement, our community needs clear answers regarding project costs, timelines, risks, and whether this revised approach will realistically keep the project on schedule," Harvie said.

Mayor Harvie is also seeking confirmation that Canadian and local contractors will have meaningful opportunities to participate in the project, including highly specialized work involving the construction, placement, and connection of tunnel segments.

"I expect the Province to provide a full public update once the Requests for Qualifications process is complete," Harvie added. "Delta residents deserve to know who has been shortlisted, what the revised timelines are, what the cost implications may be, and how the Province intends to manage project risks moving forward."

The Mayor also expressed concern over the continued absence of a federal funding commitment for the project.

"There has still been no announcement regarding federal participation," said Harvie. "This project supports national trade corridors, regional goods movement, and thousands of industrial jobs. The federal government should be a partner in delivering this critical infrastructure."

Mayor Harvie emphasized that the impacts of the current tunnel extend well beyond traffic congestion.

“Businesses south of the Fraser River already face challenges attracting and retaining employees. Commercial and industrial operators continue to absorb increasing transportation costs, while residents face daily uncertainty about whether they can reliably reach work, school, medical appointments, or family commitments,” he said.

Harvie also reiterated his call for the Province to include a second exit from Ladner as part of the tunnel project.

“A second exit from Ladner remains a critical issue for public safety, emergency access, traffic management, and community connectivity,” he said.

“Delta needs certainty. We need transparency. And we need this project delivered without further delay.”

-30-

Media Contact:

George Harvie
City of Delta
mayorharvie@delta.ca
778-773-5132