



News Release

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TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge will open to traffic June 16

TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge and its 13 kilometre road network will open to traffic ahead of schedule on June 16, TransLink CEO Tom Prendergast announced today, launching 30 days of free travel on Metro Vancouver's newest Fraser River crossing.

"After more than ten years of consultation, planning, design and construction, the Golden Ears Bridge now connects the north and south sides of the Fraser River," said Prendergast. "This is a remarkable achievement that will dramatically improve the movement of people and goods through the region."

The new six-lane bridge directly connects Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows with Surrey and Langley.

"Once the Golden Ears Bridge opens to traffic on June 16th, people living in Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Langley and Surrey will save at least 20 to 30 minutes in travel time across this part of the river," said Fred Cummings, TransLink's vice-president of major construction projects. "For the first time, they will be able to connect quickly and easily with friends, family and opportunities on the other side of the bridge."

There are many ways to get to and from the Golden Ears Bridge:

- In Surrey, a new arterial route called Golden Ears Way provides a direct connection to the bridge from Highway 15 (near 96th Avenue), from 180th Street, from 96th Avenue, and from 192nd Street.
- In Langley, the bridge connects to 200th Street and Highway 1 via 199A Street (one-way southbound) and 201st Street (one-way northbound).
- In Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge, the new Golden Ears Way connects the bridge with Airport Way/113B Avenue; with the Lougheed Highway and Maple Meadows Way; with 203rd Street; and with the corner of 210th Street and 128th Avenue.

For pedestrians and cyclists, two-metre-wide sidewalks line each side of the bridge, linking with municipal cycling and pedestrian networks on both sides of the river.

TransLink's new bus service across the Golden Ears Bridge – the #595 Langley Centre/Haney Place express route -- will be launched on June 22.

Featuring the first electronic tolling system in western Canada, the Golden Ears Bridge will allow drivers to cross the bridge and pay the toll without stopping or slowing down. Instead of toll

booths, electronic sensors and cameras will ensure the applicable toll is collected from the vehicle owner. Vehicle owners with a Quickpass transponder will pay up to 30% less to cross the bridge than those who cross the bridge without a transponder.

TransLink will use the toll revenue to pay for the construction, operation and maintenance of the TransLink-owned bridge and associated network of major road improvements. The bridge will be toll-free for the first 30 days it is open to traffic.

The Golden Ears Bridge and its connecting roads will improve the economic competitiveness of Metro Vancouver by improving travel times for people, goods and services; reducing regional congestion, and opening up access to markets, services, facilities and recreational opportunities. The route will also connect communities by providing new travel choices for transit users, cyclists and pedestrians.

TransLink, the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority, plans, finances, implements and champions an integrated transportation system that moves people and goods safely and efficiently, supporting Metro Vancouver's regional growth strategy, air quality objectives, and development.