



For immediate release

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## **Livable Region Coalition questions highway expansion, impact on Vancouver region**

A growing coalition of transportation and land-use advocates, academics and citizens are raising serious questions about the B.C. government's plans for highway expansion in the Vancouver region. The coalition's 12-page position paper asks: *Will Freeway Expansion Kill the Livable Region?*

Minister of Transportation Kevin Falcon has clearly stated his government's intentions to fast-track twinning of the Port Mann Bridge and widening of Highway 1 to at least eight lanes from Langley to Vancouver.

The *Livable Region Coalition* (LRC) argues that the Port Mann/Highway 1 expansion is flawed for four principle reasons:

- (1) It will not solve the problem of congestion.
- (2) It will have negative consequences for our livable region.
- (3) There are more affordable and effective alternatives.
- (4) The decision-making process lacks transparency.

The *Livable Region Coalition* paper discusses each of these points in detail. Studies are cited that demonstrate highway expansion leads to more, not less, traffic congestion in the long run. A number of potential alternatives are suggested in the paper. The LRC paper argues that the proposed highway expansion will undermine the GVRD's Livable Region Strategic Plan.

The LRC calls on the BC government to evaluate and outline the "most effective means for lasting solutions to traffic congestion in the corridor that are consistent with adopted local and regional policy. At minimum, what is required is a careful weighing of costs and benefits of alternatives to reducing congestion within this corridor."

The full paper can be downloaded at: [http://www.best.bc.ca/LRC\\_Final\\_1.pdf](http://www.best.bc.ca/LRC_Final_1.pdf)

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