
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Study concludes costs outweigh benefits of bridge to Gabriola Island

NANAIMO – Results of the Gabriola Island Fixed Link Feasibility Study conclude that while a bridge appears to be technically feasible, it would not be a cost-effective alternative to the current ferry link.

Because of this, the Government of British Columbia will not consider a fixed link to Gabriola Island at this time.

“There is simply not enough compelling evidence to proceed with further work on a fixed link to Gabriola Island,” said Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Todd Stone. “Our goal is ensure coastal communities are connected in an affordable, efficient and sustainable manner. This study shows that continuation of a coastal ferry service for Gabriola Island residents is the best way to achieve that goal.”

The study examined alignments, road connections, construction cost, operation and maintenance costs, travel time, reliability and flexibility for potential users. It also includes a high-level assessment of the socio-economic and environmental impacts of such a connection. Feasible options were evaluated against the existing ferry service.

The study confirms that a number of combinations of possible road and bridge options exist, ranging in cost from \$258 million to \$520 million. The average estimated project cost is \$359 million, on which the business case was based. However, the costs outweigh the measured benefits.

Beyond the business case, the study notes there are other significant considerations for government if the project were to proceed, including archaeological and environmental conditions.

The report was prepared for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure by CH2MHill.

Learn more:

The Gabriola Island Fixed Link Feasibility Study is available on the ministry’s website:
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/download/18C0E9F4D7AF4EBA8E96F10D10B37FD3>

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