



## News Release

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### **Golden Ears Bridge Project receives national award for innovation**

TransLink's Golden Ears Bridge Project was awarded the Gold Award for Project Financing at the Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships 2006 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence ceremony held in Toronto on Monday.

The award recognizes the project's innovative approach that will result in six to ten million dollars in savings to taxpayers, compared to a project solely delivered by the public sector. It also recognizes the project's success achieving a fixed-price, date-certain contract and transferring responsibility for construction costs, on-time delivery and operating performance to the private sector.

The Canadian Council National Awards are presented annually to showcase Canadian excellence and innovation that enhance the quality of public services and facilities.

The project will improve the economic competitiveness of Fraser Valley, improve the flow of commercial goods and business traffic and provide community benefits including new travel choices for transit users, cyclists and pedestrians.

It will benefit the entire region by reducing congestion and opening up access to employment, markets, services, facilities and recreational opportunities. Construction of the new bridge and road network will create more than one billion dollars in economic activity and 7000 person years of employment.

The Golden Crossing Group General Partnership, lead by Bilfinger Berger BOT Inc., is made up of local and international leaders in transportation design, construction, finance, asset management, bridge and highway operations, maintenance and rehabilitation.

The Golden Ears Bridge Project is approximately 14 kilometres in length and includes a six-lane toll bridge across the Fraser River, new arterial roads connecting the bridge to the existing road network on both sides of the Fraser River, and municipal road upgrades to improve traffic flow.

Scheduled to open in 2009, the Golden Ears Bridge will provide a vital link between the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, and the communities of Surrey and Langley, reducing travel time across the river by 20-30 minutes.

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TransLink is the region's transportation authority, committed to working with communities and all levels of government to build an integrated transportation network that will improve the movement of goods and people through the Greater Vancouver region. TransLink supports the region's growth strategy, air quality and economic development objectives.

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