



Macdonald Bridge Re-decking Project Will Extend Life of Important Transportation Infrastructure

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For Immediate Release

FINANCE--Macdonald Bridge Re-decking Project Will Extend Life of Important Transportation Infrastructure

A major infrastructure project will extend the life of the Macdonald Bridge, ensuring an important piece of Nova Scotia's road network will be in place for decades to come.

"Anyone who travels between Halifax and Dartmouth knows how important the Macdonald Bridge is to their commute. This project will ensure the bridge continues to serve travelers and our region well into the future," said Finance Minister Maureen MacDonald, minister responsible for the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission. "Investments in public infrastructure contribute to a growing economy and ensure we are well-positioned for the significant opportunities on the horizon."

The Province of Nova Scotia and the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission (HDBC) have entered into a loan agreement with a maximum limit of \$200 million. This capital project is being financed through the General Revenue Fund and will have no impact on the province's net debt. Like past projects funded through provincial loan agreements, the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission will repay the loan to the province.

"Nova Scotians want to know we are getting the best value for our dollar. And this financing arrangement will result in significant savings for bridge users," said Ms. MacDonald.

Beginning in 2015, the Macdonald Bridge's road deck, floor beams, stiffening trusses, and suspender ropes will be entirely replaced. Once complete, a significant amount of the bridge infrastructure will be new. This will extend the life of the 60-year-old span and reduce future maintenance needs.

"This is the largest project we have undertaken since the MacKay Bridge was built over 40 years ago," explains Steve Snider, general manager and CEO for the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission. "It is only the second time ever that the suspended spans of a suspension bridge will be replaced overnight with traffic operating during the day. It's an exciting project to undertake and we expect to attract world-wide attention."

Engineering work and other planning for this project has been ongoing since 2010. A number of local firms have been contracted for the work so far, and HDBC has held information sessions so local companies can better understand the project requirements and how they can take advantage. Bid criteria will focus on best value, as well as economic, workforce, and other benefits to Nova Scotia.

For more information about the Macdonald Bridge re-decking project, visit www.hdbc.ca.