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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 7/31/2019 6:47:05 PM
Subject: Granville Bridge Vancouver Sun Story

Good Evening Mayor and Council

This email is to clarify recent media reports regarding debris allegedly falling from the Granville Street Bridge. At this time, staff are unable to confirm whether the material in question is a piece of bridge structure, as the resident who made the report has kept the materials and cannot be analyzed.

The public's safety is of utmost importance, and a priority for the City is to maintain the essential infrastructure we all depend on daily. Staff would like to assure the public that the structural integrity of Granville Bridge remains safe.

311 Report

On July 25, 2019, a report was made to 3-1-1 noting the presence of unknown material on the roof of the Sandbar restaurant on Granville Island. In response, staff undertook the following actions:

- July 26:* staff spoke with the resident who made the report.
- July 29:* staff met with the resident in-person to review the material and discuss next steps.
- July 31:* staff performed a closer inspection of the steel structure. Crews identified some minor surface rust, typical of a coated steel structure which is considered to be superficial. The surface rust was removed and recoated with a primer.

City staff have also been in contact with the Operations Coordinator for Granville Island, who has advised there have been no other recent observations or evidence of falling rust or debris from the bridge.

Previous Incidents

Since 2013, staff are aware of three prior incidents of material falling from the bridge. At all times, we have followed through with an investigation and made any necessary repairs to ensure public safety.

Bridge Inspections

Built in 1954, Granville Bridge is an aging piece of infrastructure and is showing signs of deterioration as would bridges of similar age and construction type.

Detailed inspections of the bridge are conducted by engineering consultants on a 5-year cycle, and monitoring inspections are conducted on annual basis. This is standard industry practice. In addition, City crews conduct routine maintenance inspections every 6 months.

Structural and Seismic Upgrades

Structural and seismic upgrades to Granville Bridge are also currently underway as part of the 2019-22 Capital Plan. This work includes upgrades to the underside of the bridge, the steel span, north ramps, and south approach to repair the concrete and steel, and replace the expansion joints and bearings.

Containment and disposal of falling materials is included in the scope of bridge repair works.

Previous repairs and upgrades to the bridge include:

- 2016:* localized repairs to the Gantry System
- 2013:* upgrades to 2/3 of the steel span, including bearings and expansion joints
- 2012:* repairs to one of the north-end piers
- 2009/2010:* shear capacity upgrades
- 1997:* seismic retrofit of the +Granville main north and south approaches, which included pier strengthening, bearing replacement, adding seismic restraints, and bracing to the truss spans

The above information is in the process of being submitted to the respective media outlets for clarification.

If you have any questions or would like more information on this matter, please let me or Jerry know.

Best

Sadhu

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