

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2024-07-17 1:19:14 PM

Subject: Update - media reports re debris falling from Granville Bridge

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up to recent media attention to reports regarding concrete debris falling from the Granville Bridge. In brief, Engineering staff and external consultants have determined that the debris identified by David McCann, general manager of Creekhous Industries, did not actually originate from the bridge itself.

Additional detail regarding this incident and our team's investigation is set out below. There is also information provided in response to public concern regarding the maintenance/use of the gantry units on the underside of the bridge for maintenance work.

- On Friday, July 12, the City received an email from David McCann, general manager of Creekhous Industries, to report that concrete debris were found outside the Creekhous building at Granville Island, below Granville St Bridge.
- City staff met on site with Mr. McCann the same day to investigate this issue. Mr. McCann confirmed that the debris was found three days earlier on the morning of Tuesday, July 9. Staff asked to see the debris but Mr. McCann could not recall where he left it.
- Once staff determined there were no immediate safety concerns to members of the public who travel on or under the Granville Bridge including visitors to Granville Island, staff organized an inspection for Monday, July 15.
- **On Monday, July 15, City staff and structural consultants conducted an inspection of the bridge deck area located above where the debris was found.**
- The inspection concluded that the debris does not appear to have originated from the bridge itself.
 - An update on the inspection findings was shared with Mr. McCann and CMHC today.
- The approximate location of the concrete debris found by Mr. McCann is shown in Figures 1 & 2 below, west of Creekhous shops (circled in red):



Figure 1 – Map of approximate location of reported debris

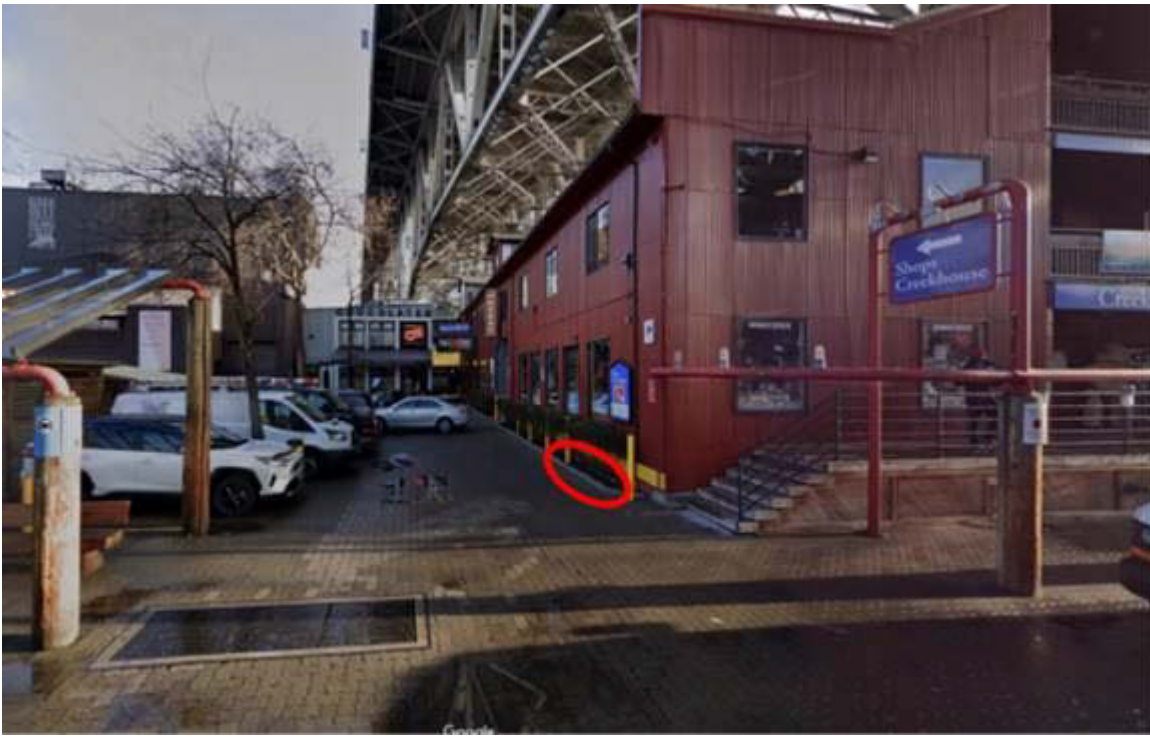


Figure 2 – Approximate location of reported concrete debris

- In 2020, the City installed debris netting directly above this area as part of a pilot project. Debris netting is designed to catch falling debris from the underside of the bridge.
- During the July 15 inspection, no debris or evidence of debris penetrating the netting was identified. Figure 3 below illustrates the debris netting location (shown in red and blue), as well as the location of three gantry units that run along the length of the bridge (shown in pink). These gantry units provide access to the underside of the bridge for inspections and maintenance.

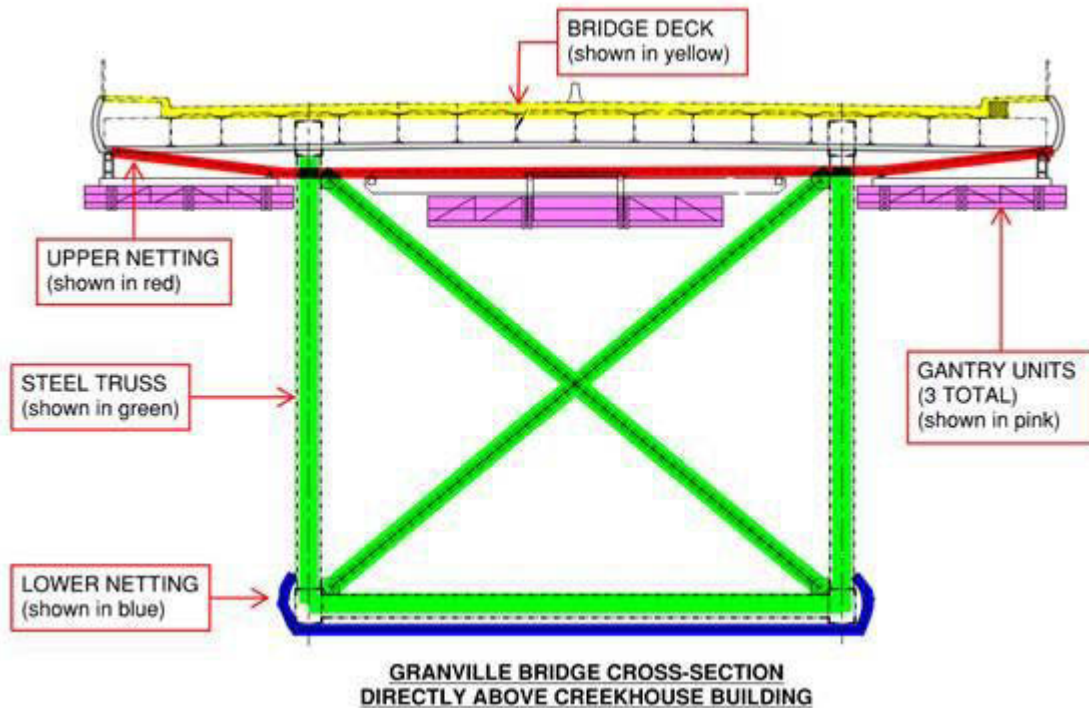


Figure 3 – Granville Bridge cross section above the Creekhous Building



Figure 4 – Debris netting above reported debris location

- Figures 5 & 6 show the gantry units being used by City crews for regular maintenance work (photos taken from underside of the bridge, gantries circled in red):



Figures 5 & 6 – Gantry units being used by City crews

- **Although all three of the gantry units are operational, minor repair work currently underway on the south side of the bridge has restricted movement of the gantry temporarily. Access for the inspection on July 15 was instead gained from ground level using a boom lift instead. Temporary traffic management measures were implemented outside the Creekhouse building to ensure the inspection could take place safely.**
- Following the July 15 inspection, Mr. McCann reached out to City staff thanking them for expediting the inspection of the area and also expressing his frustrations around City's maintenance of the gantry units. Mr. McCann stated that the City "... needs to repair and maintain the gantry so that there is no need to block off any access on the ground to any of our stores and offices."
- The gantry units are regularly inspected by City's consultants and contractors and repairs are performed on as-needed basis. In addition, City staff have put forward a recommendation to add \$1.3M to support gantry maintenance and renewals as part of the City's Capital Plan mid-term update process.
- All City inspections and maintenance work that could impact Granville Island are coordinated directly with CMHC to ensure impact is mitigated as much as possible.
- **Granville Bridge itself is inspected on a regular basis by City's structural consultants and maintenance work is done by City's crews multiple times a year. Structural repairs are based on the results of the regular inspections. City's current Capital Plan has \$45M allocated to Granville-related projects (excluding mid-term update recommendations).**
- We have also heard in the media questions around the safety of the Granville Bridge as it pertains to a Notice of Claim filed earlier in the year. The City's Notice of Civil Claim, was related to a previous Granville Bridge project and was issued to protect our legal interests. The defective work outlined in the civil claim does not pose an immediate risk to the public. [Here is a link](#) to the statement that was issued on this matter at the time.

Acknowledging past incidents of fallen debris and objects that may have originated from or above the bridge, we take reports of this nature very seriously and encourage residents to immediately report issues directly to the City.

Should you be approached by media to comment on this matter, you are encouraged to refer them to media@vancouver.ca for responses.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Lon.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.