



Innovative Construction Practices Being Used to Improve View and Vancouver Intersection

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Road improvements and upgrades to underground utilities have reached an important milestone at the intersection of View and Vancouver Streets. On Wednesday, low-weight cellular concrete will be poured over top of a geo-grid, a plastic mesh grid that will stabilize the soil.

The low-weight cellular concrete, produced by Cematrix, an Alberta-based company, is a mixture of cement and water with a foaming agent that creates air pockets, making the cement lighter and more suitable for the upgrades to the intersection of View and Vancouver Streets. This is the first time this material has been used on Vancouver Island. Over the past several decades, the intersection has settled resulting in a "sinking" roadway. Maps dating back to 1875 suggest that the intersection was built on what once was possibly a marsh or lake.

Since the project began in September 2007, road work has included removing surface asphalt and concrete, excavating soil, installing a new water main on Vancouver Street, as well as replacing sewer and storm drain pipes. Stormwater can now filter through the existing peat to stabilize the soil, preventing further decay and soil decompression. The peat will act as a natural filter, removing contaminants such as heavy metals and oils from the stormwater. The project is on budget and is one week ahead of schedule.

Other innovative construction techniques, such as hydro "vaccing," and possibly, low-temperature asphalt, will further reduce the construction schedule as well as greenhouse gas emissions, and minimize construction impacts on existing trees in the area.

Upgrades to the intersection will improve pedestrian and wheelchair accessibility, stabilize the roadway and protect underground utilities. Vehicle traffic is affected at times but pedestrian walkways remain open throughout the project. All businesses in the vicinity will remain open and the City of Victoria is working closely with neighbouring merchants to minimize impacts as much as possible.

A beautification project including heritage cluster lights and stamped, coloured concrete, will enhance the overall character of the Harris Green streetscape. This component of the project is jointly funded 50-50 between the City of Victoria and the neighbouring businesses and residents. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2008.

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For More Information:

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