



P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Y3, (604) 254-9411

July 6, 2010

Mayor Gregor Robertson and Council
c/o Vancouver City Hall
453 W. 12th Ave.
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1V4

RE: Burrard Bridge Reconfiguration and Structural Rehabilitation

On behalf of Heritage Vancouver, I would like to congratulate the City for a solution that allows for safer bicycle and pedestrian access to the Burrard Bridge while at the same time preserving the heritage character of Vancouver's landmark art deco bridge. For many years, our Society has been in favour of a solution that did not involve a widening of the Bridge at the roadbed level, and is very supportive of the bridge rehabilitation measures that are being proposed.

We would, however, raise a cautionary note about the complete replacement of the bridge railings. A better heritage conservation approach, based on the ***Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada***, would be to retain and repair any sections of the original railings that are sound, and to replicate in-kind any sections that cannot be repaired. This preserves more of the original historic character of the bridge, its authentic patina and its heritage character. The City should examine the feasibility of repair over complete replacement as a preferred conservation approach.

If such a study demonstrates that replacement is the only viable option, we urge that the replication of the original railings should be very carefully considered. The railings are an integral part of the original Art Deco detailing, and were carefully designed by the bridge architects to allow the vertical elements to disappear from the motorists' view at certain speeds. The visual prominence of the railings is an important aspect of the experience of the Burrard Bridge both from the roadbed and from a distance. To alter the visual appearance of the railings in any way would be an unacceptable and unnecessary intervention.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Luxton".

Donald Luxton, President
Heritage Vancouver

cc. Penny Ballem, City Manager
Marco D'Agostini, Senior Planner, Heritage Group
Brent Toderian, Director of Planning
City of Vancouver Heritage Commission
David Rawsthorne, Greenways & Neighbourhood Transportation Engineer