

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why is the Ministry addressing challenges at the Balfour ferry terminal now?**

The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is responsible for making strategic investments into British Columbia's transportation system to support a safe and reliable transportation network. There are some emerging safety and operational issues with the Balfour ferry terminal that need to be addressed. The narrow navigation channel in the west arm of Kootenay Lake and its shifting sandy bottom require careful navigation and are causing local coating breakdown and pitting problems for the MV Osprey hull as well as propeller damage. Costly and ongoing dredging of the channel will be required to continue to use the Balfour terminal.

The narrow navigation channel also means that vessels must operate at low speeds to avoid small boat traffic. The growing popularity of pleasure boating in the area means conflicts with small vessels will continue to increase.

The Balfour Ferry will also need to be replaced within the next few years. This is a huge capital investment (estimated around \$30 million) and needs to be addressed at the same time as the future of the Balfour terminal.

Other challenges relate to highway safety and efficiency during peak travel times. The Ministry is also looking at how to provide sufficient access and capacity into the future.

### **Has a decision been made to relocate the Balfour ferry terminal?**

No, a final decision has not been made. We need to address challenges—both marine and land side. We are looking at two options to address those challenges, which we are bringing to the community for their input.

### **What locations have been considered for a new ferry terminal?**

There have been numerous studies over the past 25 years to identify potential sites for a new and expanded ferry terminal. A recent technical feasibility study undertaken by engineering firm SNC Lavalin examined the technical feasibility of numerous locations including improvements to the Balfour terminal. That study concluded that a site at Queens Bay North, three km from Balfour would be the preferred location for a new terminal. The Ministry is considering either improving the existing Balfour terminal or relocating the terminal to the recommended Queens Bay North location.

**How will the public be consulted and involved in the decision-making?**

It is vital that the Ministry hear from the local community, businesses and local government before making a decision on how to address the challenges. Between June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup> Ministry staff will be meeting with local stakeholders and engaging with the public as part of the project's public consultation phase. Stakeholder meetings are being arranged with local businesses, community organizations and government representatives. An Open House is planned for June 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Redfish Elementary School Gymnasium. Community members will have the opportunity to review various materials including the report, Discussion Guide, Poster Boards and fill out a questionnaire as well as ask questions of Ministry representatives and engineers. For those not able to attend the Open House all of the materials, including an online survey will be available at [www.gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://www.gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal).

The results of public consultation will be shared with the public online and will be part of a report that will be presented to government as part of its decision making process.

**How can I find out more about the project?**

The best place to start is through the project website [www.gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal](http://www.gov.bc.ca/balfourterminal).

You can attend the Open House on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Redfish Elementary School Gymnasium or email project representatives at [balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca](mailto:balfourterminal@gov.bc.ca) or telephone 250-356-9861.

