



Alexandra Bridge Coalition / Coalition pour le pont Alexandra

August 2021

The ABC-CPA calls on all federal parties to commit to:

Reversing the decision to demolish the Alexandra Bridge until all due-diligence studies are completed. These studies must include the potential removal of vehicular traffic from the existing bridge and an updated costing analysis of for all alternatives.

The ABC-CPA continues to have significant reservations about the fundamental basis of PSPC's decision to replace the Alexandra Bridge.

- Our procedural concerns are that PSPC did not follow the recommendations of the 2018 Life Cycle Cost Analysis report to “ensure the best value to the Crown and to Canadians” by reviewing the “socioeconomic, transportation planning, cultural and heritage significance, life cycle assessment and environmental impacts” PRIOR to making a final decision on whether to rehabilitate or replace the bridge. To date, no evidence has been provided to demonstrate that PSPC has met its due diligence obligations by conducting these studies or reviews prior to the 2019 decision to replace the bridge.
- Our economic concerns are focussed on the apparent underestimation of the replacement costs for the bridge – as contained in the 2018 LCC Analysis. Given the known costs of recent similarly-scope bridge replacement projects, the likely costs of any of the bridge replacement scenarios (particularly the ‘signature’ bridge scenario) are believed to be wholly inadequate. The economic argument for replacing the bridge is further countered when coupled with the reduced maintenance costs of the existing Alexandra Bridge if the use of de-icing salts (the primarily cause of deterioration) is halted – either through a change of function on the bridge that prevents vehicular traffic or a change of winter maintenance practices.
- Our environmental concerns are based on the Liberal government’s own stated policy objectives to address the Climate Crisis and meet its carbon reduction targets. It is unthinkable that the federal government plans to release massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere by commissioning a new vehicular bridge that will increase traffic into the residential neighbourhoods of two cities, and that will waste the embodied carbon present in an existing bridge that can be rehabilitated to serve for active transportation and green public transit.
- Our cultural heritage concerns are that the potential loss of a nationally significant heritage asset can only be considered after a transparent and thorough due-diligence process has been completed to assess the alternatives. To date, only the commemoration of the existing bridge, not its potential retention, has been publicly discussed.

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