Project Background

To meet growing demand for drinking water, Metro Vancouver is planning to construct a new water supply tunnel deep under Burrard Inlet, east of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge. The Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel project involves replacing existing water mains with a new water supply tunnel, designed to meet current seismic standards. The new tunnel will house three steel water mains that will connect to the existing distribution system on either side of Burrard Inlet between Metro Vancouver’s works yard in North Vancouver and Montrose Park in Burnaby.

The new water supply tunnel will be approximately five metres in diameter and 1.1 km long. It will be excavated using a tunnel-boring machine designed to drill through soils and bedrock. When complete, the new water supply tunnel will help ensure the continued, reliable delivery of clean, safe drinking water to a growing region.
Project Details

Conceptual and preliminary design work for the project has been underway for several years to determine an option that best balances benefits and costs. Geotechnical drilling investigation for the detailed design work took place on both sides of Burrard Inlet in 2015 and was completed in January 2016. Detailed design work should be completed by fall 2017. Construction is expected to take place from 2018 to 2022.

Managing Construction Impacts

The project team is committed to minimizing construction-related impacts to the public by:

- Implementing best management practices to minimize noise and air quality impacts
- Implementing a Traffic Management Plan to minimize impacts on streets, parking access, pedestrian access, truck traffic and overall traffic flow
- Restoring all areas affected by construction.

PROJECT MAP

Tunnel-boring machine: this machine was used to excavate Metro Vancouver’s Port Mann Water Supply Tunnel under the Fraser River.
The new Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel will be approximately five metres in diameter and 1.1 km long. When completed in 2022, it will help ensure the continued, reliable delivery of clean, safe drinking water to municipalities south of Burrard Inlet.
Project Background

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Metro Vancouver’s role in water supply

Metro Vancouver provides a reliable supply of safe, high-quality drinking water to its members at a reasonable cost. This includes acquiring and maintaining supply, as well as treating, testing and delivering water to members. In turn, the members are responsible for conveying water to residents and businesses.

Metro Vancouver uses a system of watersheds, dams, treatment facilities, water mains, pump stations and reservoirs. Improvements are constantly underway to maintain the quality and reliability of these systems, and of the supply.

Construction Communications

As detailed construction schedules become available, residents and businesses will continue to be notified. The project team will provide regular and timely construction information through fact sheets, newsletters, email, on-site signage and Metro Vancouver’s website.

Contact Us

Metro Vancouver Information Centre:
604-432-6200
(Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Email: icentre@metrovancouver.org
www.metrovancouver.org and search “Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel”