

## Determining Feasibility

Establishing the feasibility of a large capital works project is a sophisticated process that progresses through several stages, all of which are time consuming.

The first of these is called the order of magnitude stage, and that's where the Binnie & Associates study of possible Sunshine Coast fixed link(s) is now. Such studies normally take about three months, although some, like this one, take up to a year.

At Stage two, a scoping study describes a project's purpose, objectives, requirements, assumptions, constraints and boundaries, a process that normally takes three to six months. In a scoping study of the Third Crossing proposal, its costs and benefits would be assessed in more detail, and with greater accuracy.

Stage three is the preliminary feasibility study, in which a project's technical details come under even greater scrutiny, and cost estimates are stated with even greater accuracy. This stage usually takes from six to twelve months.

The fourth and final stage is a detailed feasibility study, which typically takes about a year. So, if the Binnie study finds that the benefits of a fixed link *appear* to justify its costs, the project will still be subject to 2½ years of further study, in three more stages, before feasibility is established to the satisfaction of both engineers and government.

At such time as the project receives political approval, the Ministry of Transportation would then issue a Request for Proposals, receive bids from contractors, weigh them, and ultimately award contract(s).

This part of the process is likely to consume another year, which means that mid-2020 would be the earliest that construction could begin on the fixed link or links, be they roads, bridges or some combination of the two.

As an interim measure, we will be reviewing the Binnie report, doing some scoping work and preparing fresh estimates which will then be reconciled with the findings in the Order of Magnitude study.

This interim work will be led by our engineering and construction team.

**-- Third Crossing Society, 2016**