



Richmond-Airport-Vancouver Line – Breakthrough



CONGRATULATIONS !

The SNC Lavalin Pacific Contractors – SELI Joint Venture has announced the breakthrough on the first of two twin tunnels being constructed for the rapid transit Canada Line in downtown Vancouver, British Columbia. Local dignitaries including Premier Gordon Campbell were on hand for the event as the LOVAT RME238SE Series 22800 Earth Pressure Balance Tunnel Boring Machine [TBM] broke through in early April, 2007.

The 6.1 meter diameter Mixed Face, Earth Pressure Balance TBM bored the 2.45 km long tunnel an average of 10 meters per day. The tunnel was driven beneath downtown Vancouver, including a challenging portion under False Creek, a tidal basin with twice daily fluctuations in water levels. Geological conditions encountered consisted of sandstone, granitic dykes and glacial till.

The TBM will now be disassembled and moved to the Second Avenue worksite to commence work on the second tunnel.

