



For Immediate Release

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Confederation Bridge engineers to conduct wind testing today

BORDEN-CARLETON – Traffic on the Confederation Bridge may be temporarily interrupted today as researchers conduct a series of tests to enhance their knowledge of the effects of winds on high-sided vehicles crossing the bridge.

An empty transport truck and a motor coach will be driven across the 12.9-kilometre-long bridge when winds reach speeds near the restriction policy limit of approximately 70km per hour that are forecast later today. High-sided vehicles are not normally permitted to cross the bridge during periods of high winds.

World-renowned researchers from the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory at the University of Western Ontario will outfit the two vehicles with electronic sensors. The sensors will measure and record the vibrations of the empty vehicles as they repeatedly cross the bridge at various speeds. Regular traffic will be restricted for approximately 15 minutes during one test, when the high-sided vehicles will cross the bridge along the centre yellow line.

The Confederation Bridge has enforced the same wind-restriction policy for the past 10 years. The policy was designed in a controlled wind tunnel environment and engineers routinely follow up with local truck drivers to hear how their vehicles perform on windy days. However, no relevant live testing of this kind has ever been performed by the Confederation Bridge or other similar structures around the world.

“When the bridge is restricted to trucks and other vehicles, it prevents the free flow of goods on and off the Island,” explains Michel Le Chasseur, the general manager of the Confederation Bridge. “If we can increase our level of service without compromising safety, everyone benefits. That’s why we need to better understand the effects of wind on these vehicles.”

If winds do not reach the high speeds that are forecast, the testing will be postponed until further notice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Stefanie Arduini

Communications Officer, Confederation Bridge

(902) 367-3685 | Cell: (902) 394-5434

stefaniaea@scbl.net

