

# Rethink is needed on Blue Bridge

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The last estimates for the Blue Bridge costs are absurd and no more likely to be accurate than the previous erratic attempts.

How is it that the Golden Gate Bridge, by the same designer in earthquake-prone San Francisco, is quake-resistant and this much reduced version, over a smaller span, isn't?

We must look again at the vision for this bridge. It must be a traffic-calming device, restricting cars from downtown, not accommodating more.

Victoria's transportation menu should include a pedestrian mall on Government Street, street cars, amenities for bikes and scooters, an LRT to Swartz Bay, rickshaws, carriages, skateboard parks and a downtown train station. Cruise ships burning bunker fuel and diesel buses can stay away. So too the big yachts that wantonly consume more carbon per person than any rational use ought to allow.

Bike riders, to save \$13 million dollars, can dismount and wheel their bikes across the bridge. They would enjoy reduced competition from cars, as would pedestrians and sightseers, when we plan for fewer vehicles downtown. *Andy Sinats Victoria*