

APRIL 1980

Prime Minister Trudeau pledges 60 million dollars towards rapid transit system plus support to Transpo. Equal cost-sharing is not mentioned. The BIE pre-enquete team (from The Netherlands, Poland, and France) arrives in Vancouver.

MAY 1980

Bill 19 establishes Transpo 86. Pre-enquete team in Vancouver. Wolfe and Manning host their tour. Pacific National Exhibition, Jericho Park, and False Creek under consideration for main site. Chairman of BIE team lauds application as best prepared in recent history. A Federal Cabinet committee headed by Senator Bud Olsen visits Victoria and pledges cautious approval and support for Transpo but declines to offer financial committment. Preliminary budget sent to Ottawa. Shared financing still expected.

JUNE 1980

BIE pre-enquete team unanimously endorses Vancouver, and BIE recommends False Creek site on June 12. Canada to host. Acceptance practically assured; there are no competing applications for 1986. Budget 150 million dollars.

JULY 1980

Bill 19 passed in legislature and Transpo confirmed. Bill 46 introduced to set up BC Place. Opposition criticizes expropriation power. Alderman and mayoral candidate Michael Harcourt writes Patrick Reid asking BIE to reject BC's application. Further, he warns Reid that, if elected, he will oppose EXPO 86. Government of Canada proceeds with final BIE registration. Grace McCarthy strikes first sledgehammer blow to begin demolition of Pier BC.

AUGUST 1980

Transpo staff begin preparation of final BIE presentation.

SEPTEMBER 1980

Preliminary impact study shows 62 million dollars in direct revenues to Government, 10,000 man-hours of work, and 360 million dollars in incremental economic activity. Support grows. Tourism working with Transpo on BIE final presentation.