On January 15th, 1958, the District of Mission unanimously approved a petition for the construction of a new bridge over the Fraser River for vehicle traffic. Four years later, work began with potential locations to build the new transportation link and in 1965, Norman Hilton, one of the designers of the Port Mann Bridge, was appointed the project engineer. However, another four years passed before the construction actually commenced.

In February of 1969, construction started on the two shore-most river piers and in June the following year the land piers were complete while work on the river piers was delayed due to the high level of the Fraser River. Several times while the bridge was under construction a ferry service was implemented to accommodate traffic while the CPR Bridge was also being worked on. Dated June 21, 1971 this aerial photograph shows the substructure of the bridge completed and work commencing on the erection of the steel superstructure for the 200 foot approach spans.