



By Drew Johnson

Seemingly confirming one of the worst kept secrets in the industry, a General Motors insider has revealed that the next-generation Chevrolet Corvette will be one of the first road-going vehicles to feature GM's new 5.5L V8.

According to one of *Motor Trend's* inside sources, the Corvette C7 will come equipped with GM's new 5.5L small block V8. The new mill will feature a number of technical advancements — including direct-injection and a new combustion system — but will retain its old school overhead valve design to cut costs and keep the engine compact.

Power for the new engine will likely total 440 horsepower, which would be a slight improvement over the 436 horsepower currently available in the C6 Corvette. However, thanks to the 5.5L's smaller size and its advanced features, expect a noticeable jump in overall fuel economy — improving on the C6's already impressive 26mpg highway rating.

Chevy's new 5.5L has already made its world debut, appearing between the fenders of the C6.R racecar. GM has also committed \$890 million to develop and produce the new small block. Expect to see the C7 Corvette in 2012.