

102 Ave Bridge/Groat Road Closure Update

City prepares to stabilize girders while continuing to manage traffic, parking

The City of Edmonton has met its first-week goals for stabilizing the 102 Avenue Bridge Replacement Project after four bridge girders buckled during installation, requiring a three-week closure of Groat Road.

After the incident occurred on Monday March 16, the City identified the need to stabilize the girders as top priority in order to safely re-open Groat Road to traffic as quickly as possible. In consultation with project contractors, the City established a three-week strategy to stabilize the girders and re-open Groat Road.

"We have achieved our goals for the first week of our strategy for managing the situation and last night's snowfall isn't slowing us down," said Barry Belcourt, Branch Manager for Roads Design & Construction. "The large support crane needed to stabilize the girders is in place. Now we're conducting a precise review of all the engineering diagrams and comparing them with everything we know about the damaged girders, in order to figure out the safest way to attach the girders to the support crane."

Once the girders are attached to the crane City engineers and project contractors will begin closely inspecting the overall bridge structure to determine how best to stabilize it so that traffic can start flowing below on Groat Road. Recent snowfall is not expected to impact progress. Winds gusting to more than 15 km/h and temperatures dropping below -25 degrees Celsius could affect the overall stabilization strategy.

Meanwhile, the City continues to closely monitor traffic flows associated with the ongoing closure of Groat Road using traffic cameras and field staff. Based on traffic data the City modified several traffic signals and parking restrictions on affected roadways, such as sections of 107 Ave, 111 Ave, 105 Street, 109 Street, 116 Street and 124 Street. Recommended detour routes include Victoria Park Road, 149 Street, Whitemud Drive and 109 Street to the High Level Bridge.

Overall, traffic and parking management strategies are balancing competing needs for traffic flow and business and residential parking on roadways affected by the ongoing closure of Groat Road. The City has also given affected roadways higher priority for roadway maintenance activities, such as snow and ice control, street sweeping and pothole repairs. Roadway maintenance activities are taking place during off-peak hours to optimize traffic flow.

Overall impacts to the budget and schedule for the 102 Ave Bridge Replacement Project remain unknown at this time.

"Once the girders are stable and Groat Road is open we will assess the girders to determine whether they'll need to be repaired or replaced, which will tell us a lot about the status of the project," said Belcourt. "Safety continues to be our top priority, followed by re-opening Groat Road to traffic."

"We thank Edmonton residents and drivers for their ongoing patience. We know how inconvenient this situation has been for everyone and we are working diligently to resolve it as swiftly and safely as possible."

Further updates to follow on Monday, March 23, 2015.

For more information:

www.edmonton.ca/102avenueovergroat

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