

Opening of new Walterdale Bridge delayed

Existing bridge remains in service as work on new bridge continues

The City of Edmonton announced today that the opening date for the new Walterdale Bridge has been pushed back one year, from fall 2015 to fall 2016.



Steel required to build the new bridge was delivered months later than planned and put the project behind schedule.

"We are disappointed that the new Walterdale Bridge will not open to public service in fall 2015 as we had anticipated," said Barry Belcourt, City of Edmonton Branch Manager for Roads Design and Construction. "We know many Edmontonians will also be disappointed and we regret the delay."

The existing Walterdale Bridge remains in service and will continue carrying traffic downtown until the new bridge opens. Traffic and river valley trail detours remain in place.

The project's general contractor Acciona/Pacer Joint Venture (APJV) said that without the steel on site it was unable to meet several project milestones. As part of its contract with the City, APJV assumes the full project delivery risk, including penalties for schedule delays.

Acciona Infrastructure Canada Managing Director, Raquel Garcia, said that APJV remains committed to working with the City of Edmonton to complete the Walterdale Bridge Replacement Project. "The APJV is disappointed that construction is delayed due to issues with the structural steel manufacturer. The APJV has implemented, and will continue to implement, various mitigation strategies to resolve these challenges," said Garcia.

"The construction schedule and steel delivery has always been a risk that the contractor has borne, and in this case it materialized," said Belcourt. "The City is protecting its interests by holding the contractor accountable and will ultimately levy penalties as a result."

Project costs remain within the established \$155 million budget, with no additional costs anticipated for the City or taxpayers resulting from the delay.

Despite the delay, activity has not slowed down on the Walterdale construction site. Crews are continuing to backfill the cofferdams and complete concrete bridge support legs. Next steps include assembling the arch steel in preparation to launch the central arch pieces across river later this year.

Construction of the new Walterdale Bridge began in January 2013. Certain project milestones, such as the reconfigurations of Queen Elizabeth Park Road and Walterdale Hill, are complete. The updated schedule includes opening the new bridge to traffic in fall 2016 and removal of the existing bridge in spring 2017.

For more information:

edmonton.ca/walterdalebridge

To see an animated video of the arch lift, go to:
<http://youtu.be/3RKGLJFN3Ew>

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