

WALTERDALE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

PROJECT UPDATE

(July 2014)

After nearly 100 years, the Walterdale Bridge has reached the end of its service life. A \$155 million replacement project is under construction, with the new bridge expected to open in late 2015. The current bridge will be removed in 2016.

CONSTRUCTION

Crews continue to set anchor rods in the four cofferdams on both sides of the river. They will then pour layers of concrete around the anchors to form thrust blocks, which will support the new bridge arches.

In late July the area just northwest of the existing bridge will be fenced off for tree removal and excavation in preparation for future shared-use path tie-ins. Crews will also install piles for a promenade wall.

In early August crews will begin expanding the existing in-river berms, which will serve as launching areas for the bridge arches.



Anchor rods will support bridge arches



Area northwest of bridge to be fenced off

WALTERDALE HILL REOPEN

Walterdale Hill reopened to traffic one month ahead of schedule on July 3.

The new road alignment includes a permanent change to the Kinsmen Sports Centre access. The City reminds drivers to stay left to turn into the parking lot. Directional road signs are up on both Walterdale Hill and Queen Elizabeth Park Road.

WALTERDALE HILL BUS LANE

Drivers taking Walterdale Hill may have noticed that the road is now two lanes.

During concept planning, the City's Transportation Planning branch suggested removing the exclusive bus lane on Walterdale Hill. With the expansion of the Valley Line LRT to the southeast, the number of buses using Walterdale Hill is expected to be reduced

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and an exclusive bus lane will no longer be required. Instead, a transit queue jump has been provided at the intersection of 109 Street and Saskatchewan Drive.

Reducing Walterdale Hill to two lanes has also allowed the City to install a 3 metre-wide shared-use path on Walterdale Hill for pedestrians and cyclists. This meets City Council's sustainable transportation goals as set out in the Transportation Master Plan, *The Way We Move*.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The Interpretive Belvedere information panels that once stood within the Traditional Burial Grounds/ Fort Edmonton Cemetery will move to a new temporary home just northeast of the cemetery in mid-August. Work is currently being completed on new concrete bases for the panels.

The City removed the Interpretive Belvedere when bridge work began in 2013 as the area was needed for construction site access. The City refurbished the information panels and worked with Aboriginal communities to find them a temporary new home.

Aboriginal communities will also be consulted on a permanent home for the Interpretive Belvedere panels once bridge construction is completed.



Interpretive Belvedere prior to relocation

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

2013-14	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of tree clearing. • Access roads and in-river berms. • Park trails rerouted. • Interpretive belvedere removed. • Utilities relocated and drainage system updated. • Realignment of Queen Elizabeth Park Road. • Installation of pilings and construction of cofferdams needed for thrust blocks. • Realignment of Walterdale Hill Road. • Construct new access roads for Kinsmen Sports Centre.
2014	<p>Ongoing/Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move interpretive belvedere panels to temporary location. • Construct thrust blocks. • Construct and erect bridge arches. • Construct new south side trails.
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct bridge deck. • Connect roads to new bridge alignment. • New bridge open to traffic.
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscaping/trail connections. • Demolition of old bridge.