

Fairview Overpass Replacement Project

Q&As

Why are you replacing Fairview Overpass?

- The Fairview Overpass is made up of two sections, one significantly older than the other.
- Recent inspections show that significant work is needed on the older section of the overpass in the next three to five years.
- As that part of the structure is coming to the end of its useful life, it makes more sense to replace that section of the overpass now.

Will the overpass be shut down during the construction period?

- No, up to three lanes will remain open during construction.

How long will construction take?

- Construction for the replacement of the older section of the overpass will begin in September, and is expected to finish by the end of March 2010, however our goal is to finish the project as soon as possible.
- While we understand that replacing part of the overpass may be an inconvenience for drivers, it's a vital project needed to ensure everyone's safety.
- We thank drivers for their patience while we complete this important project.

How will you be able to continue construction throughout the winter months?

- While it's unusual for us to continue construction after the end of October, there are provisions in place to work through the winter.
- Since placing concrete requires above zero degree temperatures, we may insulate or build housing over the overpass during the winter months.
- This is an important project, and we are dedicated to completing it for our drivers before next spring.

Will the department reverse traffic flow on the open lanes during construction?

- There are a number of reasons why reversing lanes aren't appropriate for this project.
- Reversing lanes could pose a risk to workers and drivers if there is confusion about which lanes are open and closed.

- It would also be difficult to change the traffic control during the winter with the necessary snow clearing.
- There are also more cars traveling out of downtown in the evening than there are going downtown in the morning, so the lanes will be set up to reflect those traffic patterns.
- Three lanes will remain open to drivers while the others are being replaced.

Will construction also take place during the evening?

- To meet the project deadlines we expect the contractor will have to do evening and weekend work during some phases of construction.

Is the entire structure being replaced?

- No, only the south side of the overpass will be replaced at this time. This is the original portion of the overpass, which is now approaching its end of useful life.
- The newer section of the overpass (built in the 1970's) —the north side— does not require replacement at this time.

How much will the replacement cost?

- The replacement is expected to cost approximately \$5 to 6 million.

Will you be including pedestrian lanes in the reconstruction?

- Yes, the new design will include a wider paved shoulder and sidewalk for active transportation.

How often are inspections done to bridges and overpasses?

- Bridges and overpasses in the province are visually inspected every year.
- A more in-depth inspection is conducted on all bridges and overpasses every 2-5 years.

Where can I go to find more information on this replacement project?

- You can visit the department's website at www.gov.ns.ca/tran for more information on the Fairview Overpass Replacement project.