

Bridging to Tomorrow Update (August 2016)

The North Commuter Parkway will support the transportation needs of citizens who live in Saskatoon's northeast and work in the Marquis and North Industrial Areas, reducing traffic on the city's existing bridges. The new Traffic Bridge will support the growing city centre by allowing motorists, pedestrians and cyclists to cross the South Saskatchewan River between downtown and residential areas in the south sector. The new Traffic Bridge design will be similar to the design of the old bridge, but will be wider to accommodate emergency vehicles.

Traffic Bridge Update

GCP has completed concrete work on Pier 3 as well as the foundations and walls for the new north and south abutments. Construction of the southernmost span of the bridge (span 4) is anticipated to start after the Labour Day weekend. GCP will use conventional weathering steel with a protective coating within the splash zone for the truss elements of the new Traffic Bridge. This will result in a two tone colour between the lower and upper portions of the structure until the patina can form on the exposed portions of the weathering steel. This process will eventually turn the entire bridge into one brown colour tone. Demolition of the last original bridge span of the Traffic Bridge is expected in November 2016.

North Commuter Parkway Update

Parkway Bridge

Construction of the west pier (pier 1) is well underway, with the pier foundation, diaphragm, and columns already complete, and construction of the pier cap currently underway. The cofferdam was extended from the west bank to the centre of the river in late July and construction of Pier 2 has commenced.

Storm sewer installation for the widening of Central Avenue between Attridge Drive and Fedoruk Drive is nearing completion and the relocation of overhead power lines has started. Improvements to the intersection of Attridge Drive and Central Avenue, and the realignment of the eastbound off-ramp from Circle Drive East to Attridge Drive, commenced in May and both are expected to be fully complete in October.

Traffic and Trails

Near the North Commuter Parkway, Marquis Drive and Wanuskewin Road is a busy intersection as trucks haul materials to the site. On the east side of the river, major upgrades continue at Attridge Drive and Central Avenue and drivers can expect more frequent single-lane traffic restrictions between the hours of 9AM and 4PM. Work to date has primarily impacted eastbound traffic while work on the south side of the intersection is being completed. In the coming weeks, work will begin on the north side of the intersection, which will single-lane traffic restrictions between the hours of 9AM and 4PM in the westbound direction on Attridge Drive. The City appreciates the public's patience while this critical work is being completed before the end of the 2016 construction season.

Near the Traffic Bridge, the Spadina Crescent detour at the Broadway Bridge and 3rd Avenue will remain in place until the end of construction period. The Saskatchewan Crescent eastbound detour to 11th Street and westbound detour to the Victoria Avenue on/off ramps will be in place until August 2016.

On the trails, Rotary Park and River Landing trail detours will continue through the construction period.