

TRAFFIC BRIDGE DEMOLITION PHASE 2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is leading the demolition?

Graham Commuter Partners has contracted Rakowski Cartage and Wrecking, an experienced wrecking firm from Winnipeg to conduct the demolition, the same contractor who completed the first phase of demolition of the Traffic Bridge on January 10, 2015. Rakowski also completed the demolition work on the P&H Building in June 2015.

When will the demolition occur?

Sunday, February 7 at 8:30 a.m. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, the demolition will be cancelled and re-scheduled for Saturday, February 13 or Sunday, February 14.

What does this phase of the demolition include?

This stage of demolition includes taking down the far north span of the bridge. GCP and the Rakowski will prepare the bridge for the proper placement of explosive charges at strategic locations on the bridge. At 8:30 a.m. the explosives will be ignited and the span will fall to one side (away from the riverbank) and onto the earthen berm that is being constructed in the river. Demolition of the remaining span will occur later in the project, likely in Winter 2017.

Is there anything different about this 2nd phase of demolition than the first demolition?

The demolition will be far less spectacular than the January 10 demolition. This demolition includes just one span, the far north span of the bridge. Due to the location of this span, the set-up procedures for taking down this span will vary slightly. Care must be taken to ensure there is no damage to the sea wall. Cuts in the structure will be made on the water side only, not the riverbank side. The span will fall on one side onto the berm.

Will there be an evacuation of the area during the demolition?

No, however an exclusion zone which includes a 250 m radius of the blast site will be in place for one hour leading up to the blast and until the area has been deemed safe after the blast. Anyone residing or working within this area should remain indoors during the demolition. Anyone outdoors must be outside of the exclusion zone.

How will you ensure no one enters the exclusion zone?

Guards equipped with communication devices will be placed at all entries and access roads leading to the site (managed by Rakowski). Saskatoon Police Services and the Saskatoon Fire Department will also provide manpower and crowd control services.

How will people know they are to remain indoors?

Property owners and tenants located within the exclusion zone will be notified via a hand delivered letter from Rakowski that the demolition will be occurring and to remain indoors during the demolition. The City will also use Notify Now to send a message to those who have signed up for the notification service. An ad will be placed in the City Page of the Star Phoenix the Saturday before the demolition.

How are you alerting other stakeholders?

Email messages will be sent to the Meewasin Valley Authority, the Broadway and Downtown BIDS, and the Nutana Community Association.

Will any roads be closed during the demolition? For how long?

The Broadway Bridge will be closed. Portions of Saskatchewan Crescent East on the south side of the river will be closed to pedestrians and traffic. On the north side of the river, sections of 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenues South, 19th Street East and Spadina Crescent East will be closed. Road closure/traffic detour messages will be communicated via the City's usual process. River Landing will also be closed to the public. The closures and detours will be lifted as soon as possible after the demolition occurs.

Can the public watch the demolition?

Yes, as long as they are not outdoors within the exclusion zone (within 250 m of the blast site). The optimal location to view the demolition from outdoors will be from the south end of the Broadway Bridge, which will be closed to vehicular traffic.

The demolition can also be viewed via live web camera feed which is being set up through the contractor's project web site, and which will be linked through the City's project web page at Saskatoon.ca/bridging.

What can the public expect to see?

A warning signal (siren) will be used to signal the demolition. Rakowski will issue a 3-minute warning by 3 short air horn blasts, then a 1 minute warning by 1 long air horn blast. The command post will start a countdown (from 10). Detonation will follow, and the implosion will occur (lasts just seconds). The blast site will be checked. Once complete, an all-clear signal (10 seconds long) will be heard.

Will observers feel anything from the blast?

Observers may feel some vibration from the blast; vibrations from the impact of the structure hitting the ground will be negligible.

Will there be a lot dust or hazardous materials present in the air during/following the implosion?

No, largely in part because the bridge structure is made of metal/steel. Hazardous materials within the steel structure include paint and lead. These will be removed immediately and taken to an appropriate disposal site.

Do you expect there to be any flying debris during the demolition?

No, it will be contained within the site.

What happens to the old structure? Will it be recycled?

Metal will be salvaged for scrap.

Will there be a lot of noise from the demolition and the bridge preparation?

The noise level is expected to be approximately 110 decibels, about the same as the noise a sandblaster would make. This blast will last for a moment only.

What's involved in preparing the bridge for the implosion?

Sections of the bridge will be cut at strategic locations and explosive devices will be placed and wired.

Is the use of explosives safe?

The contractor performing the demolition is a licensed blaster who specializes in blasting operations. A blasting plan has been approved by the Saskatoon Fire Department, Emergency Measures Operations and Saskatoon Police. The focus of the plan is to ensure public as well as occupational health and safety measures are in place during the blast.

Will the explosives be on site during the preparation?

No, they will be delivered as they are required. All of the procedures in the Canada Explosives Act, including the guarding of the area once the explosive devices are in place, will be followed.

What is the City's responsibility in ensuring public safety during the demolition?

GCP and Rakowski Cartage and Wrecking are managing all aspects of the bridge demolition. The City, through various departments, will provide support as required.

How are Saskatoon Police Services and the Fire Department involved?

Saskatoon Police Services and Fire Department will assist in site security, as well as exclusion zone restrictions and crowd control. The Fire Department will also be patrolling the river and the river's edge during the demolition. The EMO will be in place to assist as required and enact emergency response in the event of any crisis situation occurring.

When will the remaining spans of the old bridge be taken down?

The remaining middle span of the old bridge will be taken down as construction progresses, likely in Winter 2017. Details on demolition dates will be shared as they are known.