

News Release

Near perfect construction weather, few unexpected issues resulting in smooth construction season

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The 2018 Building Better Roads construction season is about two thirds of the way complete, and the City is on schedule and even ahead of schedule in some areas. Near perfect construction weather and few unexpected issues have contributed to a smooth season so far.

“We’re really pleased that our road and sidewalk work is already about 90 per cent complete,” says Celene Anger, Director of Construction and Design. “If the weather continues to cooperate, we do expect to complete about 20 per cent more sidewalk work than we projected—we’re very happy about that.”

Another project that benefitted from the favourable construction conditions was the Circle Drive over 33rd Street northbound overpass which was completed five weeks ahead of schedule. This project’s early finish was attributed to a combination of nice weather and contractor efforts.

Anger says it’s too soon to say whether the City will be able to accelerate other projects or complete additional work.

“In deciding whether we can proceed with additional work, there are a lot of things that need to be considered,” says Anger. “Budget is the primary consideration and only certain types of work can be started at end of season and carried over into the next year.”

Following is an update on some key areas of City construction and maintenance:

- **Potholes & utility cuts:** City crews have filled the equivalent (based on an average sized pothole with a 12” diameter and 4” depth) of 99,100 potholes with asphalt. Infrared pothole patching, a new technique for the City of Saskatoon, is ongoing on Circle Drive. Crews have repaired 1,690 utility cuts to date.
- **Back lanes:** Back lane grading is 95% complete and back lane reconstruction will begin September 10th.
- **Line painting:** Lines on roadways and crosswalks (1,035 across the city) have received their first coat of paint and the application of the second and final coat is in progress. A total of 420 km of white paint, 235 km of yellow paint, and 5.6 km of Durable Line Markings have been applied so far.
- **Water & sewer:** Water and sewer replacement and rehabilitation work is about 70% complete across the city. A total of 17,885 metres of water and sewer line has been restored or replaced as well as 341 underground connections. The work on Idylwyld Drive and at Avenue J/29th Street is complete and the work in City Park and in Forest Grove is ongoing.

- **Roadways:** Of the City's planned 206 lane km of roadway improvements, 183 km are now complete.
- **Sidewalks:** The City has completed 19 km of sidewalk replacement. An additional 3,892 sidewalk panels have received maintenance and preservation treatments.
- **Intersections:** The road and sidewalk work at the intersection of Taylor & Arlington has completed; some short duration finishing/clean-up work (i.e. irrigation, light post lines, medians) will be scheduled in the weeks to come.
- **Interchanges:** The McOrmond interchange remains in progress with a target of opening in October 2018. The Boychuk interchange is on schedule to open in summer 2019.
- **Overpass structures:** Major rehabilitation and repair work on the Circle Drive over 33rd Street northbound overpass completed in early August. The 2018 washing and sealing program has also completed on city overpass and bridge structures.
- **Bridges:** Both the new Traffic Bridge and the Chief Mistawasis Bridge (North Commuter Parkway) are on schedule to open in October 2018.

More information about the 2018 Building Better Roads plan is available at saskatoon.ca/BetterRoads. You can also access Traffic Detour Service Alerts at saskatoon.ca/ServiceAlerts or follow [@YXEServiceAlert](https://twitter.com/YXEServiceAlert) on Twitter.

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