

# Whitemud Drive & Quesnell Bridge Project

Construction Update

February 2009



## Project Overview

Beginning March 1, 2009 construction will resume on the widening of the Whitemud Drive, Quesnell Bridge and Fox Drive. This significant undertaking will ensure these vital transportation corridors remain safe, are able to accommodate growing traffic volumes and continue to keep pace with Edmonton's rapid growth. It will also help to provide the City of Edmonton with a greater ability to keep and attract businesses and investment.

Construction is scheduled to be complete by November 2010.

The City of Edmonton understands that significant traffic congestion in the city's southwest will result from this major construction project and has carefully planned detours and other traffic accommodation measures to minimize the impact as much as possible.

## 2009 Project Schedule

- » Widening and reconstruction of the westbound lanes of Whitemud Drive.
- » Widening and reconstruction of the east side of the Quesnell Bridge.
- » Widening and reconstruction of the east side of the Fox Drive overpass.
- » Retaining wall construction west and east of the Quesnell Bridge and near Fox Drive.
- » Construction of a new entrance to Fort Edmonton Park.
- » Construction of a new multi-use trail west of the Quesnell Bridge.

## Westbound Fox Drive Closure

Beginning March 1, 2009, Fox Drive westbound from Belgravia to Whitemud Drive will be closed to all traffic except for Edmonton Transit and emergency vehicles. This closure will ensure optimum transit service and is scheduled to be in effect until December 2009.

## Road Closures/Detours

- » Fox Drive westbound – Detour to Whitemud Drive using 122 Street or Groat Road to 107 Avenue.
- » Fox Drive ramp onto Whitemud Drive westbound – Detour to south to 53 Avenue then Whitemud Drive westbound.

**Recommended Alternate Routes:** Anthony Henday Drive, Stony Plain Road, Groat Road



## 2009 Construction Detour and Park Access

- » Fox Drive Westbound Closed (Transit Access Only)
  - » Fox Drive Ramp to Whitemud Drive Northbound Closed
  - » Access Park - From Fox Drive Eastbound (Off Whitemud Drive)
  - » Exit Park - Fox Drive Eastbound (Turn Left, To Belgravia Road/122 Street)
- or**
- » Fox Drive Westbound (Turn Right, To Whitemud Drive Southbound/ 53 Avenue)

## Did You Know?

The Quesnell Bridge is the busiest bridge in Edmonton. It carries approximately 120,000 vehicles per day—that equates to approximately 10,000 vehicles per hour during morning and afternoon peak periods. It also carries 4000-5000 pedestrian and cyclist trips per week.

This is the first major rehabilitation of the bridge since it was built in 1967. Rehabilitation will extend the life of the Quesnell Bridge by up to 50 years. Reconstruction of the Fox Drive overpass will extend the lifespan by up to 75 years.



## Traffic Management

Through extensive traffic modeling and careful planning, the City of Edmonton will strategically coordinate the Whitemud Drive and Quesnell Bridge construction project to ensure the efficient movement of public transit, private vehicles and that goods reach their destination in a timely manner.

To help minimize traffic congestion, the City of Edmonton's Transportation Management Centre will closely monitor traffic volumes, collisions and changes in construction.

- » A network of 64 Digital Messaging Signs located along key corridors leading up to the construction site will provide real time traffic updates to allow motorists the opportunity to find alternate routes, if necessary.
- » When a collision occurs, tow trucks will be on stand by to quickly clear away any non-injury related accidents to help traffic to keep moving over the bridge and through the construction zone.

## Pedestrian/Cyclist Shuttle

For ease and safety of pedestrian and cyclist traffic through the construction zone, the City of Edmonton is providing a free shuttle service with drop off/pick up points at Fort Edmonton Park/Fox Drive and Laurier Drive at 142 A Street (see map).

The shuttle, which includes bike racks and wheelchair accessibility, will run every half hour between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., seven days a week between February 23, 2009 and November 2009. For more information about the shuttle service is available online at [www.edmonton.ca/quesnellbridge](http://www.edmonton.ca/quesnellbridge).





## Live Traffic Cam

With the aid of 34 live traffic cameras you can check current construction zone traffic conditions online at any time to determine the best route before you begin your trip. Visit **[www.edmontontrafficcam.com](http://www.edmontontrafficcam.com)**.

## Safety First

Lane closures and speed limits are necessary to ensure construction crews have a safe work environment and to ensure projects are finished efficiently.

For the safety of all, motorists are reminded to drive with extreme care:

- » Follow posted speed limits--50 km/hr in the construction zone unless otherwise posted.
- » Share the road with other motorists.
- » Always be prepared to stop.
- » Obey all posted directions and construction signs.

## Retaining Wall

Due to the widening of Whitemud Drive, the existing retaining wall north of the Quesnell Bridge is being removed and a new retaining wall is being constructed further to the east (see photo above).

## Keep Edmonton Green

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