



WALTERDALE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

PROJECT UPDATE

(November 2013)

After nearly 100 years, the Walterdale Bridge has reached the end of its service life. The new \$155 million bridge will be constructed between 2013 and 2015; the current bridge will be removed in 2016.

CONSTRUCTION

South side utility work and drainage is now complete and will continue on Walterdale Hill Road in 2014.

Piling work is finishing up on the south side of the river and continues to be installed on the north side.

The sheet pilings will create watertight cofferdams (*see box*) where concrete thrust blocks will soon be built. The thrust blocks will serve to anchor the future bridge arches.

Pile driving will continue until the end of 2013. Once

the thrust blocks are completed, the cofferdams will be removed and the pilings removed and recycled.

TREE REMOVAL

Minor tree clearing took place on the north side of the project area November 4.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS

Thanks to cooperative weather and diligent work by the project team, Queen Elizabeth Park Road reopened to traffic on October 1—a full month ahead of schedule.

The road closed July 15 for slope re-grading and road realignment as part of the Walterdale Bridge replacement project. Both roads down to the bridge will remain open through the winter months.

Drivers can expect more road closures when Walterdale Hill Road is realigned in spring 2014.

ROADWAY SIGNS

Drivers will have noticed a large project sign erected in mid-October on the south side of the bridge. The sign includes the project completion date and a rendering of the finished bridge.

COFFERDAM

A cofferdam, or 'coffer', is a temporary enclosure built within or nearby a body of water that allows for water to be pumped out, creating a dry work environment for construction. They are often used for oil platforms, bridge piers and other support structures in or over water. Cofferdams are usually welded steel structures made up of sheet piling, wales and cross braces. They are usually dismantled after work is completed.

From Wikipedia



A square cofferdam takes form as sheet pilings are installed on the south side. Once all pilings are in place, soil inside is removed to create a dry work area.



CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

2013	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tree clearing.</i> • <i>Access roads and in-river berms.</i> • <i>Park trails rerouted.</i> • <i>Interpretive belvedere removed.</i> • <i>Realignment of Queen Elizabeth Park Road.</i> • <i>Utilities relocated/drainage system constructed.</i> <p>Ongoing/Upcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Install pilings; create cofferdams.</i> • <i>Move interpretive belvedere panels to temporary location.</i> • <i>Construct thrust blocks.</i>
2014-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Construct and erect bridge arches.</i> • <i>Realign Walterdale Hill Road.</i> • <i>Construct bridge.</i> • <i>Connect roads to new bridge alignment.</i> • <i>Landscaping/trail connections.</i>
2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Grand opening of new bridge.</i> • <i>Demolition of old bridge.</i>

NOISE IMPACTS

Residents in the vicinity of the project area may have experienced noise disruptions from pile driving for the new bridge. The hammering is a necessary requirement as crews complete bridge foundation work. This noise is expected to continue until the end of 2013. The contractor is permitted to work within the constraints set by City Noise Bylaws (go to edmonton.ca/bylaws).

Unfortunately, any changes to the work schedule could delay the contractor's work and could cost taxpayers as a result.

The City greatly appreciates residents' patience during this time. The project team is working hard to complete the foundations as soon as possible.

PHOTOS/VIDEOS

Photos such as the ones included in this newsletter are posted online. Go to the project page or edmonton.ca/photos to search for images.



Workers standing next to sheet pilings on the south side demonstrate the scale of work involved in bridge construction.