

UNIVERSITY BRIDGE REHABILITATION FAQ'S

Why does the University Bridge require rehabilitation?

While there is no current risk of danger, an independent engineering assessment of the bridge in 2013 identified that immediate repairs are required. The deck is structurally insufficient and the concrete is susceptible to rapid failure and loss of strength.

When will construction take place?

The project has been tendered for construction during the 2015 season and the deck work that will impact traffic is expected to occur between May 1 and August 30, 2015. We will provide more detailed construction timeframes once the tender closes.

Will the bridge be closed to traffic?

Until the tender is chosen at the end of January details on how the project will impact traffic flow are yet to be determined. The project tender suggests a single lane of eastbound traffic exiting Downtown remain open Monday to Friday, from 6:00am to 8:00pm and for a single walkway to remain open at all times.

How will I get across the river when the University Bridge is under Construction?

We encourage drivers to use alternate routes to avoid traffic congestion and delays. The opening of the Circle Drive South Bridge has increased river crossing capacity and the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge and Broadway Bridge are also options for travel to and from Downtown. A single walkway will remain open at all times on the University Bridge.

When was work last done to the University Bridge?

In 1998/1999 the sidewalks on both sides as well as the spandrel walls between the deck and the main arches were replaced. Prior to that the waterproof membrane and asphalt surface were replaced in 1985 and a new deck was built in 1972. The University Bridge was originally constructed in 1916, making it a nearly 100 year old iconic bridge for our city.

I live nearby the University Bridge. How will I be impacted?

The City is aware this project will have an impact on nearby residents, so a comprehensive plan is in place to work with and notify residents of construction details and impacts. Nearby residents will be contacted as construction plans are confirmed.

I hold an event or am in charge of a group that uses an area near the river. How will my event or group be impacted?

The City is holding information meetings at City Hall Council Chambers for external stakeholder groups. Most stakeholders have been sent an invitation to attend one of four meetings at the following times:

Thursday, January 22: 10:00am – 12:00pm or 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday, January 28: 1:00pm – 3:00pm or 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Why not wait until the new Traffic Bridge and North Commuter Parkway Projects are complete in 2018?

Deferring the project until then would result in further deterioration and affect bridge use. Construction costs could also increase by as much as an estimated 30 per cent due to further deterioration over the next three years.

Will the rehabilitated bridge look or drive differently?

The rehabilitated bridge will look architecturally the same as the bridge does now.

The main difference drivers will notice will be the new concrete driving surface that will be replacing the existing asphalt surface. Drivers may also notice that the bridge has a different feel and noise when driving because the finish on the new concrete surface will allow for better traction, prevent hydroplaning and increase skid resistance.

The new Circle Drive South Bridge and the Clarence Avenue South and Circle Drive Overpass have a similar surface to that planned for the University Bridge.