

HIGHWAY 5 INFORMATION & UPDATES



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Infrastructure update prepared for residents
For the weeks of February 7 to February 20, 2022

Coquihalla Highway open as crews prepare for spring thaw

LATEST NEWS

REDUCED SPEEDS IN EFFECT

WORK CONTINUES AT ALL SITES

PREPARING FOR FRESHET (SPRING THAW)



Progress we've made

Flooding and washouts associated with the severe weather events in November 2021 damaged more than 20 sites along 130 kilometres of the Coquihalla Highway (Highway 5) between Hope and Merritt. This included seven bridges where spans completely collapsed or were otherwise heavily damaged.

More than 300 workers worked day and night to repair and reopen the highway to commercial traffic in just 35 days. On January 19, 2022, the highway reopened to regular vehicle traffic, a significant milestone in the province's recovery from the devastating storms.

Reduced speed limits

As work is ongoing in many areas of the highway, speed limits have been reduced.

Highway 5 - 100km/hr max unless otherwise posted
For most of the Coquihalla Highway, the speed limit has been reduced to 100km/hr unless otherwise posted.

Othello - 60km/hr maximum

For approximately 4km near Othello, speeds are limited to 60km/hr.

Juliet and Bottletop Bridges - 50km/hr maximum

For approximately 3km from Juliet Bridge to Bottletop Bridge speeds are limited to 50km/hr.



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure publishes these newsletters for residents regularly. See digital copies and the latest updates at:

<https://www.tranbc.ca/current-travel-advisories/>

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has established access to the over 20 sites damaged in November. Four sites have temporary access and in some areas, lanes are reduced. We are exploring long-term solutions to repair and reinforce these stretches of highway. We hope to begin work in the upcoming construction season.

Othello



Following the November events, the southbound lanes were washed out and the northbound lanes were also eroded. Crews have been re-establishing and armouring the road embankment.

Jessica Bridge



The south spans of both the northbound and southbound bridges collapsed in November. Temporary bridge spans have been constructed.

Juliet Bridge



The Coldwater River caused erosion at both north abutments. The north span of the southbound bridge collapsed. Debris was removed. The embankment and north abutment were stabilized with rock.

Bottletop Bridge



Both the southbound and northbound bridges were compromised. Three spans collapsed and the bridge approach had significant erosion. Northbound lanes were damaged for 100m and southbound lanes eroded.

H5 Team

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Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

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Preparing for freshet (spring thaw)

Freshet describes the annual melt of ice and snow when cold winter weather transitions to warmer spring temperatures. A spring freshet can last several weeks around large river systems, sometimes resulting in flooding.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is prioritizing preparations for the spring freshet in B.C. We are armouring vulnerable areas of Highway 5 with additional rocky material (riprap). These rocks deflect the impact of the rushing water away from nearby infrastructure, while the gaps between rocks trap and slow the flow of water. Because riprap is permeable, they allow water to drain freely.

Forecasting long-term repairs

Since the severe weather and flooding in November 2021, we have been in Phase 1 of our response: emergency access and temporary construction. We anticipate this phase of work will be complete in the spring, including reinforcing areas of the highway in preparation for freshet.

Phase 2 - design and construction of long-term repairs - will begin in the upcoming construction season at the earliest, with no anticipated completion date at this time. More information will be shared when it is available, including with residents along the Highway 5 corridor.

For general enquiries, please email highway5.information@gov.bc.ca. We aim to reply within 24 hours. Thank you for your patience.



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