

# HIGHWAY 5 INFORMATION & UPDATES



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Infrastructure

Infrastructure update prepared for residents  
For the weeks of March 21 to April 3, 2022

## 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 amouring vulnerable areas of Highway 5 with additional rocky material (riprap).

These rocks (riprap) 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.

## Obey speed limits and drive for the conditions

As work is ongoing in many areas of the highway, speed limits have been reduced for the safety of drivers and crew members. While crews may now be on site at all hours, drivers are reminded to:

- **Obey reduced speed limits**
- **Prepare for alternating single-lane traffic**
- **Drive for weather-related road conditions**
- **Be cognizant of other vehicles**
- **Allow space for trucks to slow down, exit, merge and and turn near construction zones**

Drivers are also reminded:

- Not to stop to take pictures in the corridor
- Cell phone reception can be unreliable in the area
- Rest stops and washrooms may be closed

## Othello



### Summary of Damage:

Washout of southbound lanes of Highway 5 with northbound lanes converted to two way traffic.

### Summary of Progress:

Riprap armoring placed along embankment in advance of spring freshet and fill in place for preparation of grading and paving of southbound lanes.

## Bottletop Bridge



### Summary of Damage:

Northbound bridge deck closed with temporary repairs completed on southbound deck to open for two lane traffic

### Summary of Progress:

Riprap armoring being placed along embankment to prepare for spring freshet

# Washroom availability status update

Currently Zopkios Brake check, Britton creek rest area and Coq lakes Northbound washroom (toll plaza NB) are open.

Southbound Coq Lakes washroom is closed and is expected to be back open by the end of April. Once work on the Southbound Coq Lakes is complete, Britton creek washrooms will be shut down for renovations.

**All washrooms are expected to be open and fully functional to the public by May long weekend.**

Any time the washrooms are closed for renovations, there will be porta potties for the public to use at each site.



## The Highway 5 Team

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