

# HIGHWAY 5 COQUIHALLA UPDATE

December 2022



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Infrastructure

## Temporary Bridges Open on the Coquihalla

- Six bridges at three sites on the Coquihalla were damaged last fall in the atmospheric river.
- Temporary repairs to the highway have restored capacity to four lanes at the Bottletop and Juliet Bridges, 50 kilometres south of Merritt, and the Jessica Bridge, 20 kilometres north of Hope. For more information, [see here](#).
- The construction of new permanent bridges to return the Coquihalla to its previous full, four-lane capacity is underway.



**Bottletop Bridge**

### Extent of Damage

3 bridge spans collapsed and roadways approaching bridges washed away.

### Current Status

- A temporary two-lane southbound bridge is in place and is open as of mid-December.
- Work on the permanent northbound bridge is ongoing, including work on the substructure and pilings.



**Juliet Bridge**

### Extent of Damage

1 bridge span collapsed and roadway approaching bridge washed away.

### Current Status

- The northbound bridge deck was poured and completed in late November.
- The completed permanent bridge is open for northbound traffic as of mid-December. This bridge will ultimately serve as the permanent southbound crossing.
- The demolition work on the damaged southbound bridge is in progress.



**Jessica Bridge**

### Extent of Damage

2 bridge spans collapsed and roadways approaching bridges washed away.

### Current Status

- The damaged southbound bridge was demolished in November.
- The temporary southbound bridge is open for traffic as of mid-December.



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure publishes these newsletters for local communities, regularly. See digital copies and the latest updates at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects/bc-highway-flood-recovery/2021-flood-road-recovery-projects-highway-5>

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## Work Done to Date

- ✓ Archaeological Overview Assessment.
- ✓ Environmental Overview Assessments.
- ✓ Geotechnical drilling investigations.
- ✓ Weekly technical meetings with Indigenous communities.
- ✓ Aggregate production.
- ✓ Ongoing engagement and collaboration with Indigenous communities.
- ✓ Design and engineering near completion.
- ✓ Construction underway including damaged bridge demolition, pile driving, bridge component fabrication and concrete works.
- ✓ Installation and construction of temporary bridges at Bottletop Bridge and Jessica Bridge sites.



## Winter Driving

As the holiday season approaches and many people plan trips to visit family and friends, it is important to be prepared for changing winter driving conditions on the Coquihalla.

On the Coquihalla, drivers are required by law to have winter tires (snowflake or M+S symbol) on their vehicle until March 31. Commercial drivers are required to carry chains, or other acceptable traction devices, and follow chain-up requirements.

With ongoing construction, drivers will need to be extra diligent during winter weather and storms. Please obey all traffic signage, drive to conditions and keep an emergency kit in your car.

Anticipate potential delays during the holidays and remember to check the driving conditions before you leave by visiting [DriveBC.ca](https://www2.gov.bc.ca).



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