

September 20, 2018

**LETTER TO RESIDENTS
4TH AVENUE LANE CLOSURE AT ROCKY CREEK**

Dear Resident,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the crossing on 4th Avenue over Rocky Creek.

In my last letter, I explained that the crossing culvert had partially collapsed, resulting in the closure of one lane on 4th Avenue. We had initially anticipated that construction to replace the culvert and rebuild the crossing could begin as early as this fall. However, we have now determined that construction cannot commence until the spring for a number of reasons outlined below.

Firstly, the initial construction schedule for the new crossing in late summer and into the fall meant a specific design that would comply with regulations governing the type of work carried out in a fish-bearing creek. With a longer construction window starting in spring 2019, we have the ability to consider other design options, which may result in lower costs to the taxpayer.

During the tender process, it became apparent that the existing one lane crossing would have to be closed completely during construction. To address this issue, the Town purchased property at 1260 Churchill Place for the purpose of constructing an emergency access route that will be available during the construction period and should eventually become a permanent connection between Churchill and McKinley.

With the original September start date in mind, it was the Town's intent to have the Churchill Place emergency access route built prior to the start of construction of the crossing, however forest fire concerns made it impossible for staff to move forward with this work. The Town has also been preparing to upgrade the existing emergency access route that is located at the end of 4th Avenue and connects with the Timber West forestry road. Again, the extreme forest fire rating in the area prevented staff from carrying out this work until very recently.

With these significant issues in mind and after extensive consultation with our engineers, we have made the difficult decision to harden the existing crossing in preparation for winter and retender the project in the spring. This option requires the removal of the first two sections of the existing culvert which are badly damaged, riprapping the crossing, installing a culvert on either side and above the invert of the existing culvert to act as overflow channels, and removing a cedar tree which poses a hazard to the crossing.

The advantage of this option is that it will allow retendering of the project over the winter with a summer construction period that avoids issues such as working within a narrow fish window. We expect this option will result in cost savings to the Town. It will also will give staff additional time to prepare the emergency routes.

As such, single-lane/alternating traffic will remain in place over the winter. We will start work shortly to harden the existing road surface in order to facilitate this arrangement.

The emergency access roads are now in place to be used as necessary. Please expect some detours through the Churchill Place access road during the upcoming road hardening work.

Council and staff remain committed to the safety of our residents and we hope that these steps will help to reduce the inconvenience to residents, while working to ensure needed repairs to the culvert and the creek crossing on 4th Avenue are carried out.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please get in touch with our Public Works staff at 250.245.6445 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a horizontal line with a small loop at the end and a diagonal stroke crossing it from the top left.

Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer