

March 28, 2023

2023 Construction Season

Here in Alberta, summer might also be known as road construction season. We, at The City, like to blame Mother Nature because she only gives us a few months to work, but we still want to do our very best to help you navigate the detours and construction that's happening across The City this summer, because while we know it might not be easy, we believe it will be worth it when it's all said and done.

1. What major projects are planned this summer?

This summer, construction activities will primarily be concentrated along 19 Street and sections of Taylor Drive including the Taylor Drive Bridge.

The 19 Street Improvement Project will begin this construction season and is expected to take two years to complete. It runs from Gaetz Avenue to Irwin Avenue and will improve the safety, capacity and connections along one of Red Deer's major corridors.

On Taylor Drive, motorists can expect to see pavement rehabilitation and bridge upgrades on the northbound lanes of the Taylor Drive Bridge, as well as work on the Waskasoo Creek Culvert just north of 28 Street.

In addition to these projects, there will be the usual maintenance throughout the city, including upgrades to underground infrastructure, pothole and frost heave repair, paving and micro-surfacing.

A full list of projects and expected traffic impacts can be viewed at www.reddeer.ca/constructionseason

2. When will construction happen?

These projects are happening throughout the summer in multiple locations. We have a traffic impact map on our website that shows up-to-date traffic impacts. We will also issue Public Service Announcements through the media and our news webpage when there will be significant impacts to traffic. These are the best methods for drivers to stay in the know of construction impacts to traffic.

3. What are the associated costs for these projects?

The cumulative total for all projects is \$48.2 million to upgrade and maintain critical infrastructure in our city.

- Major projects: \$18.7 million
 - These are projects such as the 19 Street Improvement Project and the ongoing Riverside Meadows and Fairview Infrastructure upgrades project.
- Roadway improvements: \$15.5 million
 - These projects include addressing structural inadequacies such as frost heaves, potholes, crack sealing and pavement repairs on city roadways.
- Underground utilities: \$14 million
 - This work is focused on maintaining the critical water, sanitary and sewer infrastructure, including preventative repairs, which saves money in the long run.

4. Where can we get more information about these projects?

Information can be found at www.reddeer.ca/constructionseason.

19 Street Improvement Project

This spring, we are beginning a big project on 19 Street that will improve safety, capacity, and movement in south Red Deer. This project will take two years to complete, with anticipated completion in Fall 2024.

1. Why is the 19 Street Improvement Project needed?

The 19 Street Improvement Project will improve overall movement, safety and capacity along 19 Street between Gaetz Avenue and Irwin Avenue. 19 Street is a road in need, and this project will include a complete reconstruction of the roadway, a new multi-lane roundabout at 19 Street and 40 Avenue to improve roadway capacity and safety, as well as new trails on 19 Street and 40 Avenue to encourage active movement in this area.

2. What work is involved in this project?

This project scope includes:

- Complete rebuild of 19 Street between Irwin Avenue and Gaetz Avenue. This road is more than 20 years old and past its service life.
- Construction of a multi-lane roundabout at 19 Street and 40 Avenue. This will improve intersection capacity and reduce overall delay by 80 per cent.
- Construction of multi-use trails on 19 Street and 40 Avenue. This will provide better connectivity between neighbourhoods in the east and commercial areas in the west.

3. Will traffic be detoured?

Traffic will remain open in each direction throughout construction. To accommodate traffic construction activities will begin on the south (eastbound) lanes and the north lanes (westbound) will be single lane, each direction. When construction is complete on the south lanes (eastbound), the north lanes (westbound) will close, and traffic will be detoured into the south lanes.

Throughout construction, only righthand turns will be permitted to and from 19 Street, 49 Avenue, 46 Avenue and Sharpe Avenue. Eliminating left turns at these intersections during construction will not only prevent unnecessary traffic congestion and minimize construction impacts, but it will also create a safer driving environment during construction.

4. Are businesses going to close during construction?

No. All businesses will remain open, and access will be maintained during construction. The project will provide signage to direct drivers how to safely access businesses.

5. Why are you adding a roundabout instead of keeping the traffic signals?

Modern roundabouts, like the ones on 67 Street, reduce delays and improve intersection safety when compared to signalized intersections. 19 Street and 40 Avenue is a busy intersection in our city, and by replacing the signalized intersection with a multi-lane roundabout we estimate reducing intersection delays by up to 30 seconds, and reduce potential vehicular and pedestrian conflict points, improving safety for all road users.

6. When will construction happen?

We will begin this spring (early May), and the project will take two years to complete. We anticipate stopping construction in late October and resuming again in early spring. We expect all work to be complete by Fall 2024.

Construction activities will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except for long weekends. This schedule is weather dependent and subject to change as the project requires.

7. The 19 Street work is happening by the Westerner, will this impact access?

No. Access to Westerner Park will be maintained throughout construction. The project is moving west to east, with the majority of construction activity by the Westerner happening this spring and then again for a couple weeks during mid to late July, with minimal construction activity near the Westerner for the remainder of the project. Once complete, this 19 Street Improvement Project will improve traffic patterns for those accessing Westerner Park, including the construction of multi-use pathways connecting Westerner Park to the Waskasoo Park trail system, as well as neighbourhoods in the southeast sector of our city.

8. Where can I get more information about the project?

Information can be found at www.reddeer.ca/19Street. You can also sign up for a project newsletter to be delivered directly to your inbox. We encourage you to follow The City's social media accounts for regular updates.