

Prest Road Roundabout and Widening: Bailey Road to McGuire Road

Frequently Asked Questions

General Project Information

Q1: What is the purpose of this road widening and roundabout construction?

A1: Prest Road is an important arterial roadway in the City's transportation network. The project is designed to improve traffic flow based on population growth outlined in the Official Community Plan and both short-term and long-term transportation needs. These improvements will enhance safety, optimize vehicular movement, and provide better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Q2: Why was the project completed in phases?

A2: The project was completed in three phases due to the need for property acquisitions, available funding, environmental and Agricultural Land Reserve approvals, and utility pole design and relocations for BC Hydro and Telus. Additionally, the project had to adhere to strict in-stream work schedules.

Q3: What improvements will the road widening and roundabout bring to the area?

A3: The project will improve intersection operations and lighting at McGuire Road, provide wider travel lanes, and include dedicated bike lanes and road shoulders for enhanced safety and mobility.

Q4: Will the bike lanes be protected?

A4: This project will not include protected bike lanes. While protected bike lanes play a significant role in many cycling networks, the City is currently prioritizing these in areas with higher cycling volumes.

Q5: Why is Prest Road not being widened to four lanes?

A5: With the installation of the roundabouts and the widening of travel lanes, the level of service on the road will accommodate current traffic volumes and planned future development. Widening to four lanes is not necessary at this time.

Q6: Why is a roundabout being constructed at McGuire Road?

A6: Traffic modeling and studies have shown that roundabouts offer superior performance in handling both current and future traffic demands compared to traditional traffic signals.

Q7: Why is street lighting only being upgraded at the roundabout?

A7: Ornamental lights (metal poles with street lights) are more expensive to install and maintain, so their installation is prioritized in urban areas with high traffic and high pedestrian/cyclist volumes or at critical areas such as intersections. Please note that the City is currently reviewing the BC Hydro lease lighting on this rural roadway to see if other improvements are recommended.

Impact on Traffic

Q8: Will there be any full road closures?

A8: Traffic management will be carefully planned to minimize disruption to the community while ensuring efficient progress of the work. If any full closures are necessary, the public will be given advance notice.

Q9: How will traffic be affected during construction?

A9: During construction, typical single-lane alternating traffic control setup is expected. We will make every effort to minimize traffic delays.

Q10: Are there any detours or alternative routes?

A10: Please follow traffic control signage and directions provided. Promontory Road and Chilliwack River Road can serve as alternative routes.

Q11: Is there a plan to manage congestion and minimize traffic delays?

A11: Traffic management plans will be implemented and work hours will be limited as necessary.

Q12: What is the timeline for this construction project?

A12:

- **Fall 2024:** Culvert Replacement (Completed)
- **Early Spring 2025:** Pre-construction work and relocation of Hydro/Telus utility poles
- **Late Spring/Summer 2025:** Prest Road reconstruction and widening; Roundabout construction at Prest and McGuire
- **Winter 2025 / Spring 2026:** Estimated Completion

Q13: Will there be any night work?

A13: Night work may be required for utility pole relocations and paving. If night work is necessary, the public and residents directly affected will be notified in advance.

Environmental Impact

Q14: How will the City reduce the project's impact on the environment?

A14:

- Tree and hedge removals are necessary for utility pole relocations and road widening. A raptor survey has been completed prior to tree removal and nesting season.
- Vegetation planting will help restore lost habitats and prevent soil erosion.
- Pollution control measures, including sediment control and proper waste management, will be implemented.

- The roundabout completion will ultimately help reduce emissions from idling vehicles by improving traffic flow.

Q15: Is there any plan for landscaping or aesthetic improvements around the roundabout?

A15: The Recreation and Culture Department will continue to enhance roundabouts with beautification efforts and artwork, subject to available budgets.

Communication and Contact Information

Q16: Who can I contact if I have further questions or concerns about the project?

A16: For additional information or inquiries, please contact the Engineering Department at 604-793-2907 or email engineeringinfo@chilliwack.com.

Q17: How will updates about the project be communicated to the public?

A17: Updates on transportation construction projects can be found by subscribing to our newsletter at www.chilliwack.com/newsletter.

Q18: Is there a dedicated website or social media account for project updates?

A18: For the latest updates, please visit the project webpage at www.chilliwack.com/prestandmcguire.

March 2025

chilliwack.com/PrestandMcGuire

