

Regent Street Construction Project

Frequently asked questions

Q: What work is being completed this summer?

A: There are three different projects being completed by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) and the City of Fredericton this summer. The projects include:

- Structural upgrades to the Route 8 underpass structure, which will see the structure removed and replaced. This work will be completed by DTI.
- DTI will also be repaving a section of Regent Street from the underpass to Wayne Squibb Blvd.
- The City of Fredericton will upgrade the intersection to address capacity and queuing, safety issues and future development and growth requirements. At the same time, the city will replace and upgrade water and sewer infrastructure between the intersection and Priestman Street.

Q: When will the work take place?

A: Work on the underpass began in April and traffic on Route 8 was reduced to one lane in each direction. The underpass will be fully closed from June 1 until August 31. At this same time, upgrades will be made to sections of the Regent Street and Prospect intersection as well as the section of Regent Street north from the intersection to Priestman Street. East/west traffic will continue to flow through the intersection, as will traffic up the hill to the intersection.

Q: Why is this work necessary?

A: The Regent Street underpass is 57 years old and in need of a major rehabilitation or replacement. By replacing the structure the department will be able to enhance the structure. Enhancements include raising the structure and widening it to improve traffic flow.

The infrastructure in the Regent/Prospect intersection and along Regent Street is at the end of its useful life and needs to be renewed. Above ground and below ground infrastructure will be replaced including new asphalt, new water and sewer lines, new curbing, and new wider sidewalk. There is also a need to increase the vehicle safety and capacity at this intersection by adding two new dual left turn lanes on the northbound and westbound approaches. Pedestrian safety will also be increased by utilizing a new safer design for the right turn islands and improved lighting.

Q: Why is a full closure of the underpass necessary?

A: DTI needs to fully close the structure to be able to replace it.

Q: Why are the City of Fredericton and the department doing work at the same time? Won't this only make traffic worse?

A: DTI and the City of Fredericton understand motorists will be impacted by this work. By completing the work at the same time, the impact on motorists and businesses in the area will be limited to one construction season; overall construction costs will be reduced; and ultimately, traffic flow will be improved.

Scheduling the work at the same time allows the City to take advantage of less traffic in the intersection and to minimize overall impact on the community.

Q: Will work be conducted at night?

A: Contractors will not be working at night. We need to be conscious of the construction sites surroundings. Working at night would cause a significant amount of noise for businesses and those living near the construction site.

Q: How long will the work take?

A: The full closure of the underpass will begin on June 1 and is scheduled to be finished Aug. 31. The majority of work on the Regent/Prospect intersection and north along Regent Street to Priestman Street will be completed within the June 1st to August 31 underpass closure. Minor work involving single lane closures may be completed outside these dates.

Q: How can pedestrians safely walk across Route 8?

A: A temporary pedestrian walkway will be built prior to the June 1 closure. The temporary walkway will allow pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross Route 8. The walkway will also be accessible for wheelchairs, strollers and bicycles.

Q: Why will the pedestrian walkway not be permanent?

A: When the new structure is in place it will be equipped with a sidewalk and therefore a pedestrian walkway will not be needed.

Q: What are the recommended detours?

A: Alternative routes Southbound can be found [here](#).
Alternative routes Northbound can be found [here](#).

Q: Why is the work being done in the summer?

A: In New Brunswick, summer is the ideal time to do most construction projects. School is also out during the summer which also reduces traffic.

Q: How many vehicles go through the Regent/Prospect intersection a day?

A: About 47,000 vehicles pass through the Regent/Prospect intersection each day.

Q: Are pedestrian improvements being made as part of this upgrade?

A: Yes, pedestrian safety and comfort is being improved as part of the upgrades. Sidewalks are being widened where feasible and additional lighting will be added. At the Regent/Prospect intersection, a new design is being utilized for the right turn islands which reduces right turning vehicle speeds and improves sightlines between vehicles and pedestrians.

Q: Will businesses remain open within the construction zones?

A: Yes, businesses will remain open and access will be maintained to all local businesses.

Q: Will transit be impacted?

A: Several transit routes will be impacted due to the construction. Details on the impacted routes will be available on the City of Fredericton website once finalized.

More information can be found at www.gnb.ca/transportation or www.fredericton.ca/RegentConstruction.