

Newell Substation Upgrade Project

September 2026 Newsletter

As work continues on the Newell Substation Upgrade Project, we would like to share information with the community on recent progress, current and upcoming construction activities.

Graham Construction has completed the setup of their construction work zone and parking area on Beresford Street, south of the substation. The temporary Highland Park Line Trail is now open for public use and will remain in place throughout the project.

Once major construction is complete and the work and parking area is no longer required, the trail will be restored to its original location.

CURRENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Excavation and construction of the new feeder building

Excavation work for the new feeder building is now underway at the northeast corner of the substation, near Kingsway and Griffiths Drive. As part of this work, large construction vehicles will continue to enter and exit the substation via the east gate on Beresford Street.

We ask all residents, pedestrian, cyclists and drivers to use caution when travelling through the area and to follow the directions of traffic control personnel to help ensure everyone's safety.

Crane installation

In mid-September, a self-erecting crane will be bought in and installed near the northeast corner of the substation, adjacent to Kingsway. The crane will remain on site until summer 2027 to support construction of the new feeder building. It will only be used to move materials within the substation. No materials will be lifted from Kingsway into the substation.

Underground equipment installation on Kingsway and Griffiths Drive

Temporary traffic lane closures have been put in place on Kingsway and Griffiths Drive adjacent to the substation as crews begin excavations and the installation of new underground infrastructure required for the upgrade project. This phase of work on Kingsway and Griffiths Drive includes:

- Installing new duct banks to house underground electrical cables that will connect equipment in the new feeder building to the electrical system.
- Preparing a water service connection for the new feeder building to the City's water main on Kingsway.
- Relocating an existing streetlight to accommodate the new underground infrastructure.

This work is expected to take approximately three months to complete.



Summary of traffic changes

During construction, please be aware of the following potential changes to traffic and pedestrian access:

- Pedestrians on the south side of Kingsway between Southoaks Crescent and Griffiths Drive will be detoured to the north side of Kingsway.
- Pedestrians on the west side of Griffiths Drive between Kingsway and the Highland Park Line Trail will be detoured to the east side of Griffiths Drive.
- The east access path to Magnolia Lane from Kingsway may be closed periodically during construction. Access to Magnolia Lane will remain available via the alternate path closer to the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre.
- On Kingsway, lane closures may vary between one to three lanes. When three lanes are closed, traffic will be reduced to a single lane in each direction with a westbound parking lane remaining.
- On Griffiths Drive, one or two southbound lanes may be closed. When two lanes are closed, traffic will be reduced to a single lane in each direction.

Active construction is expected to take place Monday to Friday, from 7am to 5pm. However, pedestrian detours and traffic lane closures once set up for specific construction activities, will remain in place 24 hours a day, including evenings and weekends, until the phase of work is complete.

We recognize that the traffic impact area is quite large and that the temporary lane closures are disruptive for residents, businesses, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers in the community. The additional space will allow the timing of multiple construction activities on Kingsway and Griffiths Drive to be coordinated more effectively and is intended to minimize the duration and construction related impacts to the community.

Tree removal on Griffiths Drive

A tree on Griffiths Drive, near Kingsway, is scheduled to be removed in the coming weeks to accommodate the new underground installations needed. Pre-construction investigations determined that the tree is in conflict with the planned duct bank installation. Due to limited space and congested existing underground utilities in the area, no feasible alternative was identified.

We recognize the value trees provide to the neighbourhood. To help offset this impact, two new trees will be planted following completion of the project. In addition, replacement planting is planned for trees removed earlier in the project around the substation with details to be confirmed as landscaping plans are finalized.



Tree on Griffiths Drive near Kingway to be removed. Image courtesy of Google Maps.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE PROJECT

Visit us at bchydro.com/newellsub, where you can also sign up to receive project updates by email. We'll also continue to provide door-to-door notifications to keep neighbours informed about upcoming construction activities and project updates as the upgrade project progresses. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding during the construction of this substation upgrade project.

Contact us at projects@bchydro.com or at 604 623 4472.