

Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Community Construction Report #3

July 2025

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Project status

- Crews started the duct bank work on Gorge Road on July 7. Shallow bedrock was encountered which required rock chipping to achieve a 2.5 metre trench depth. This slowed progress and added about two weeks to the work along Gorge Road.
- Construction crews are targeting to reach the Jutland Road intersection the week of August 11, with about one week of duct bank work to cross the intersection.
- Construction crews may be off Gorge Road around mid-September.
- Construction crews plan to move onto Dunedin Street in early-September and may be along Dunedin until the end of October.
- A Request for Proposal was issued on July 17 for the cable placement construction work within the Gorge Waterway and foreshore areas. A site tour with possible bidders was held on July 24.

July 16 drone view of the duct bank work along Gorge Road, looking west, with the Jutland Road intersection in the foreground.



Planning the cable route – construction timing

Esquimalt Substation (left) and Horsey Substation work February 2025 to July 2026.

Esquimalt Substation work completed February to March 2025

Pine St and a section of Banfield Park completed June 2025

Banfield Park work in November 2025

Gorge Waterway shallow burial and adjacent parks: December 1, 2025 to February 15, 2026 (fisheries work window)

Viaduct Park work in November to March 2025

Streets include Gorge Rd, Dunedin St, Douglas St, and Topaz Ave: Crews will work eastward from Gorge Rd from early July to November 2025.

Pine St and Dominion Rd intersection: Spring 2026.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 8: The duct bank excavation on Gorge Road started on July 7. Rock was encountered at a shallow depth and rock chipping was required for about a 50-metre length. The excavation is about 2.5 metres deep. Typical progress of about 10-15 metres of duct bank placement per day was slowed to about 5 metres per day through the rock zone.



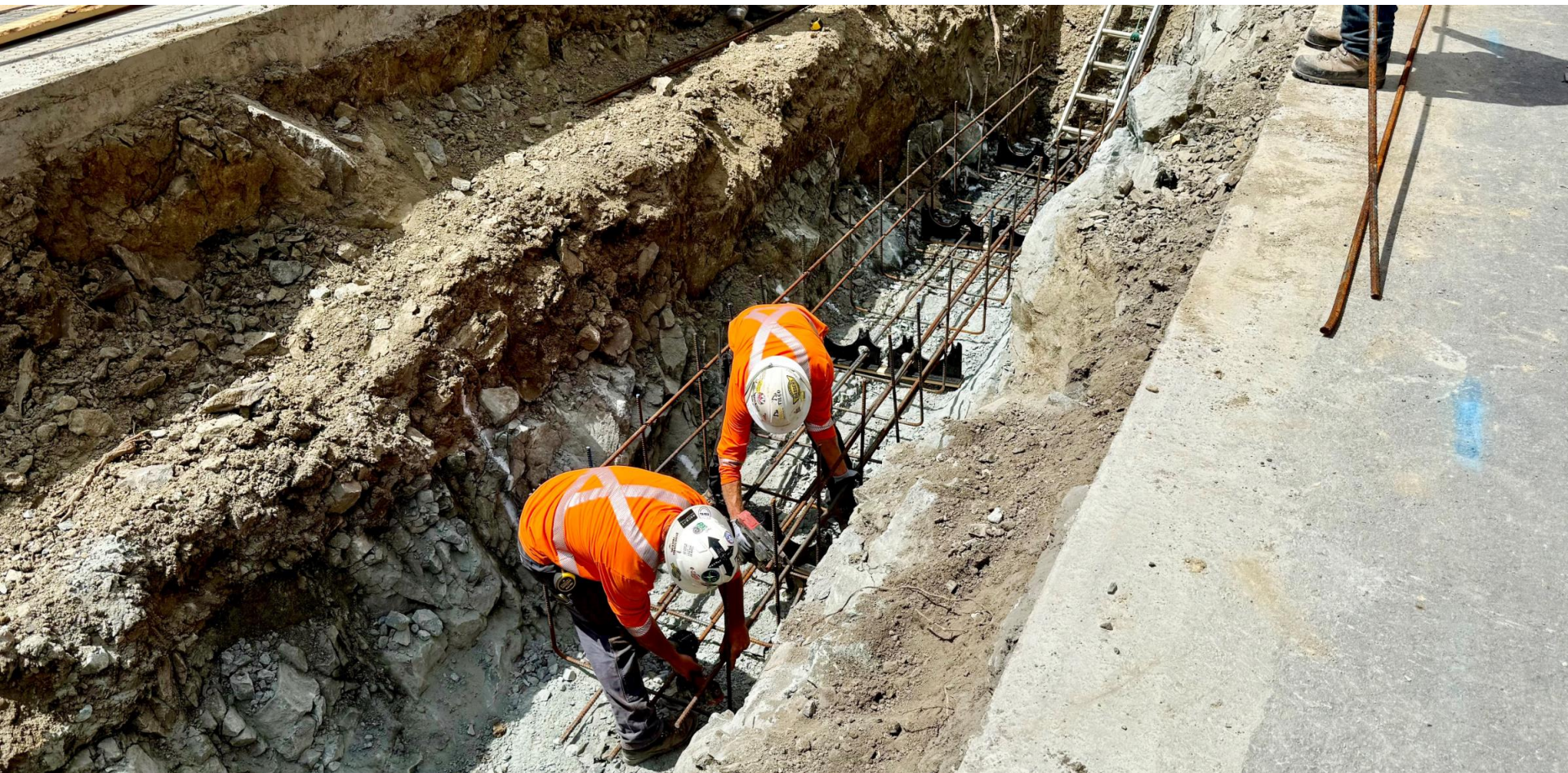
Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 8: A second excavator was used to remove the chipped rock material from the trench into a dump truck. The excavators switched positions multiple times per day. The wood 2x4 going across the trench is used to measure depth.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 8: With a section clear to begin the placement of the conduit, crews place the spacers and rebar.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 8: With the first row of spacers and rebar in place, crews place the conduit.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 8: More spacers added to provide for another level of conduit placement.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 8: The second level of conduit placement. There are four conduits that will house the cable, with one conduit used as a spare in the event of an emergency.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 8: In the background, concrete is placed along the conduit. In the foreground, material continues to be removed to progress down Gorge Road. The three red lines on the road show the location of the streetlight electric conduit and the careful excavation around them.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 16: Electrical caution tape is placed above the duct bank to prevent future excavation in the same location.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 16: Removing loose rock from the trench while protecting an irrigation line. The pipe to the left of the excavator bucket is an abandoned water main.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 16: Rock removal along the duct bank route and confirming the 2.5-metre depth.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 16: Drone view looking west down Gorge Road and the construction area, with the Jutland Road intersection in the foreground.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 16: Drone view of the duct bank excavation and work area.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 16: Drone view from a different vantage looking east down Gorge Road.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 23: Placement of concrete over the conduit. The duct bank excavation work finally moved out of the bedrock on July 23 with the trench work now moving through Victoria clay.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 23: Duct bank work area and two steel plates that were put in place to provide access to 356 Gorge Road.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 23 (evening): Daylighting work to determine underground utilities at the Jutland Road intersection. This investigative work helps to limit any potential delays when the duct bank is built through the intersection in mid-August.



Construction photos: Gorge Road construction

July 24: Duct bank work with the new section of trench in the foreground fully excavated in clay/soil.



Traffic management plan – Gorge Road

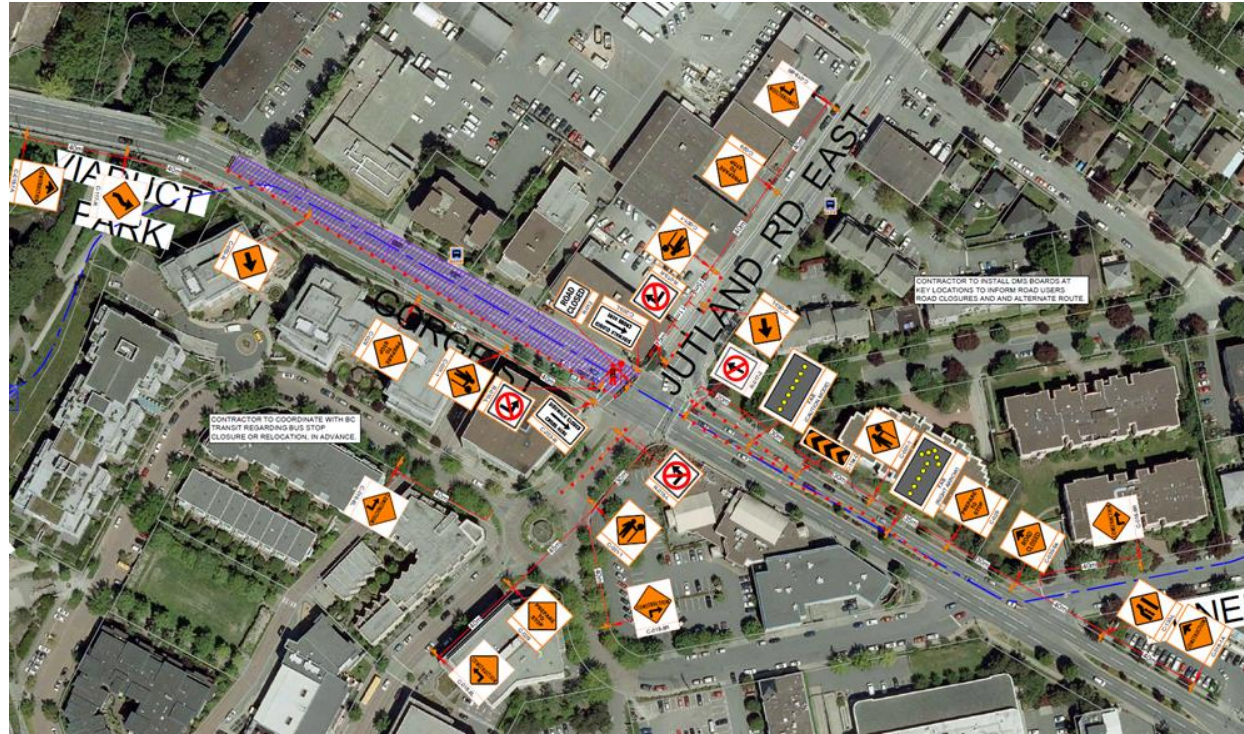
Section 1: Gorge Road (west of Jutland Road)

Work activities and timing:

- Road cutting is complete.
- Duct bank excavation is underway as of July 7.
 - Work is slowed by the presence of bedrock.
- The restoration of the westbound lane with re-paving, repainting and curbing install commences in mid-August.
- Estimated completion of all construction and restoration work within this section is end of August.

Traffic management:

- Westbound lane is closed and traffic is detoured via Jutland Road.
- Eastbound lane remains open.



Traffic management plan – Gorge Road

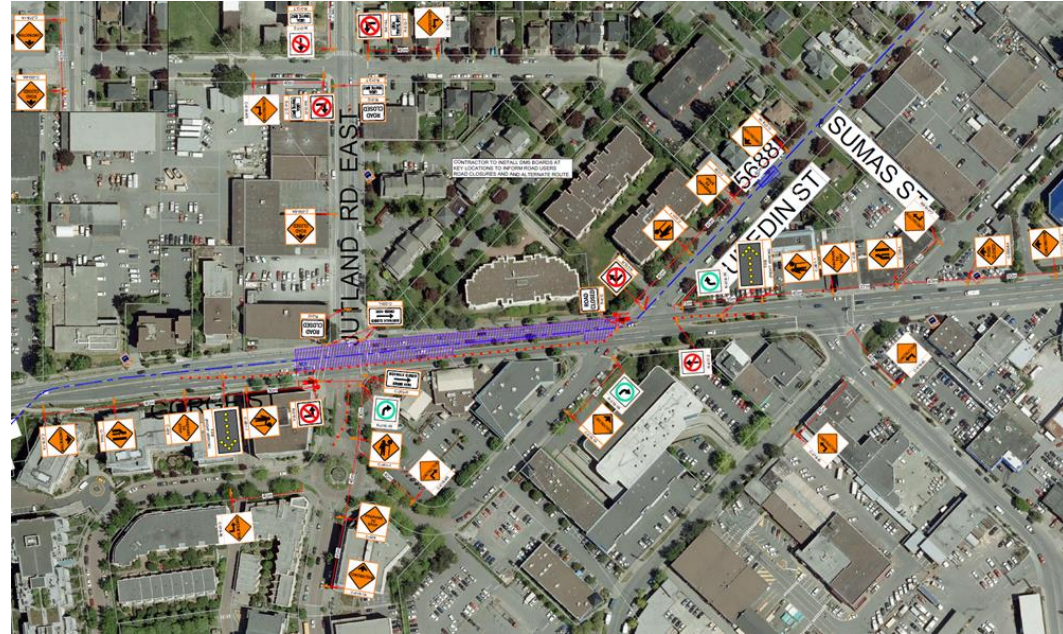
Section 2: Jutland Road intersection

Work activities and timeline:

- Evening work, for road cutting and temporary trenching to locate underground utilities, occurred from July 22-24, 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm.
- Duct bank excavation within the intersection is planned to start the week of August 11.
- The restoration of the westbound lane with re-paving and repainting, along with the full Jutland Road intersection in coordination with the City of Victoria, commences around last half of August.
- Estimated completion of all construction and restoration work within this section is end of August.

Traffic management:

- All traffic except for eastbound traffic detoured to alternative routes during July 22-24 work.
- Westbound lane closed and traffic detoured via Dunedin Street when duct bank work begins.
 - Douglas Street to Burnside Road is recommended as an alternate route.
- Eastbound lane will remain open.



Traffic management plan – Gorge Road

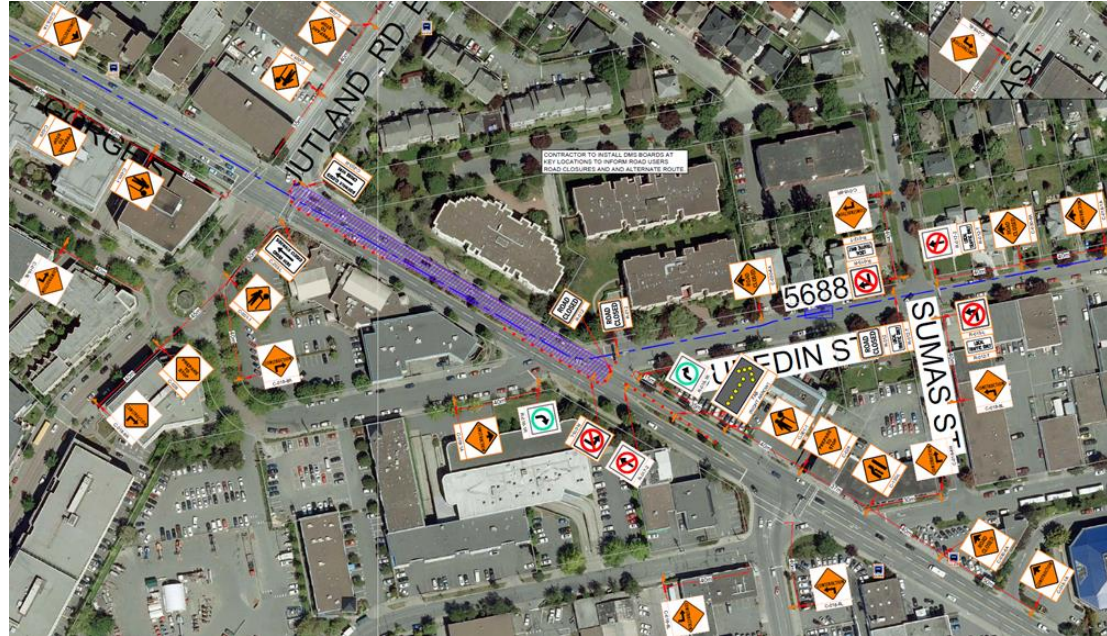
Section 3: Gorge Road (east of Jutland Road to Dunedin Street)

Work timeline:

- Duct bank excavation is underway week of August 18.
- Restoration work including re-paving, repainting of road markings and curbing commences end of August.
- Estimated completion of all construction and restoration work within this section is mid-September.

Traffic management:

- Westbound lane closed and traffic detoured via Dunedin Street. Follow flaggers and detour signs.
 - Douglas Street and Burnside Road are recommended as alternate routes
- Eastbound lane remains open.



Viaduct Park construction timing

July 16: Panoramic view of the Gorge Waterway, Cecelia Creek Park and Viaduct Park, and Gorge Road where the current cable duct bank work is located at bottom left. The blue line shows the location of the new cable route, with the planned work within the Gorge Waterway and within the parks to take place from November 2025 to March 2026. The schedule also accounts for trail improvement work up to Gorge Road.

