

Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Community Construction Report #6

October 2025

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Project status

- Gorge Road westbound restoration work from Jutland Road to Dunedin Street is complete, along with the 500 block of Dunedin Street.
- Crews began duct bank work within the Horsey Substation in early October and moved onto Topaz Avenue on October 20 to install duct and a concrete vault, with that work lasting through November.
- Crews completed the concrete vault placement beside the access road into the Esquimalt Substation off Devonshire Road.
- Crews mobilized into Banfield Park on October 24 to install duct and a concrete vault, with that work likely lasting through December 19
- Tree removals in Viaduct Park began in late October and work will begin in early November to build an access road in from Gorge Road. Pile shoring work will begin in mid-November within the park for the concrete vault.
 - A temporary closure and detour of Galloping Goose Trail will be required for the shoring work.
- The foreshore and marine work within the Gorge Waterway has shifted to the summer fisheries work window, between July 1 and October 1, 2026. More information on this marine work will be provided in future reports.



An October 2 view of the concrete vault placement beside the access road into the Esquimalt Substation.



Construction photos: Dunedin Street

Oct 2: Crews getting ready for the final paving of the 500 block of Dunedin Street on October 3.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

October 2: The prepared excavation area, and temporary metal shoring on the four sides, for the installation of the project's second of five concrete vaults along the cable route between the Esquimalt Substation and the Horsey Substation in Victoria.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

October 2: Placing the lower section of the concrete vault beside the access road into the substation. The upper section of the vault is on a truck to the right side of the photo on Devonshire Road.



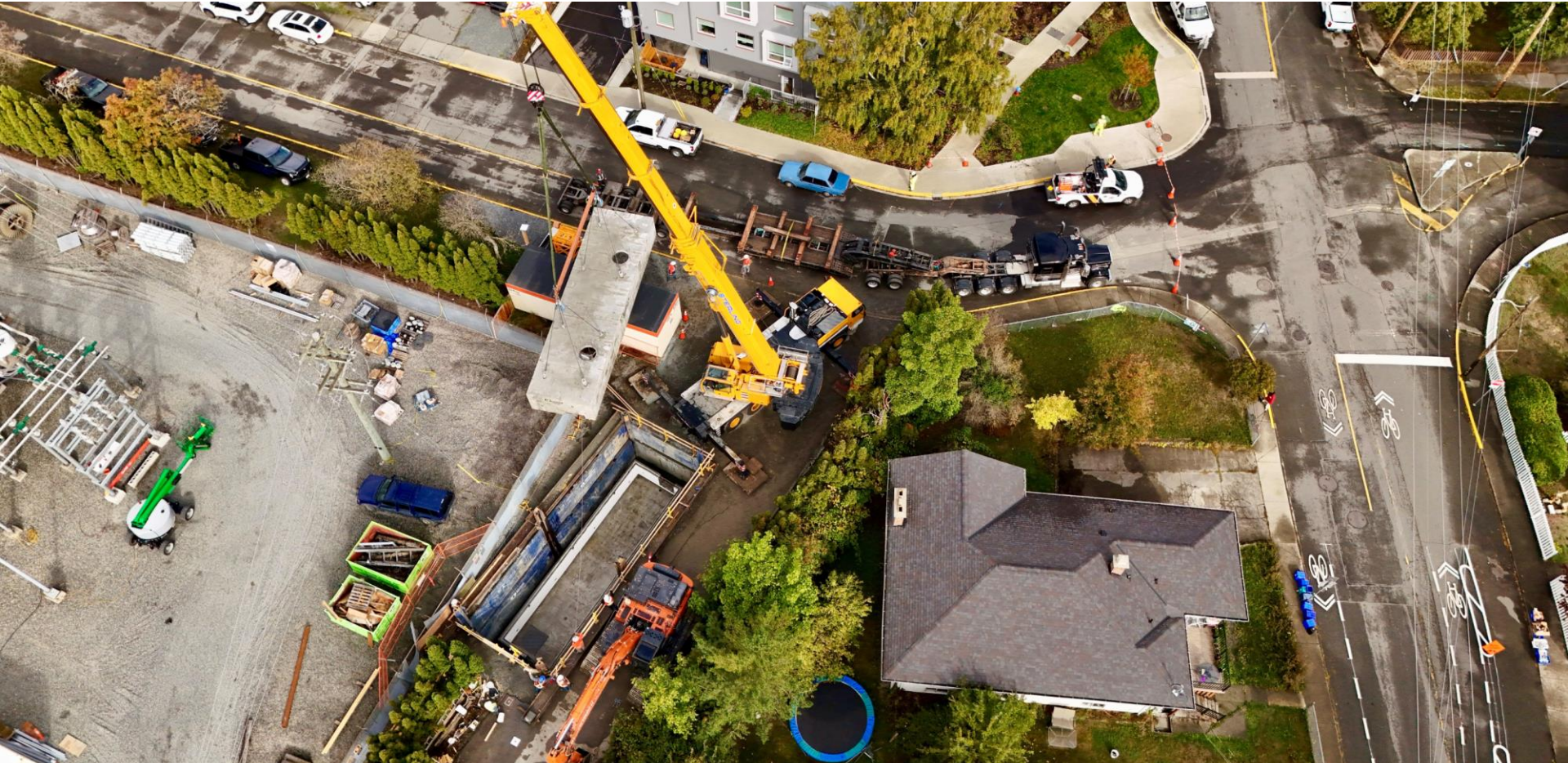
Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

October 2: Placing the lower section of the vault.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

October 2: Moving the upper section of the concrete vault to place onto the lower section.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

October 2: With the upper section just slightly above the lower section, crews ensure the two sections line up.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

October 2: Crews making the final alignment adjustments to ensure the upper section is sealed and pinned to the lower section.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

October 7: Crews back-filling the area around the concrete vault.



Construction photos: Horsey Substation

October 16: Crews started the duct bank work within the substation on October 6. In this photo crews are making the formwork to place concrete. The duct bank here is moving towards Topaz Avenue.



Construction photos: Horsey Substation

October 22: View of the Horsey Substation and the work starting on Topaz Avenue to prepare for the concrete vault placement.



Construction photos: Topaz Avenue

October 22: Crews working on Topaz Avenue and traffic management control. Road access to businesses is off Douglas Street.



Construction photos: Topaz Avenue

October 22: Crews working on the excavation and the first section of shoring for the placement of a concrete vault. The duct bank coming out of the substation is in the upper middle part of the photo and will turn 90-degrees on Topaz Avenue into the concrete vault.



Construction photos: Gorge Road

October 22: Completed restoration work with the concrete bike curbing and line painting within the westbound lane of Gorge Road and the corner of Dunedin Street.



Construction photos: Topaz Avenue

October 28: Crews getting ready to install the third and final concrete vault along city streets (a vault will be placed in Banfield Park and in Viaduct Park). The two sections of the concrete vault are shown in the upper part of Topaz Avenue.



Traffic management plan – Topaz Avenue

Work timeline:

- Concrete vault placement and duct bank construction from the substation to Douglas Street is planned to take place to the end of November.
- Duct bank work to cross Douglas Street is planned to begin on January 12. A traffic management plan will be provided in the December construction report.

Traffic management:

- Topaz Avenue shown in blue highlighted area will be closed except for local traffic.
 - South lane used for construction access and single-lane alternating traffic.
- North lane is where the duct bank will be placed.
- No parking on either side of the street within the designated work zones.
- Follow flaggers and detour signs.



Construction photos: Banfield Park

October 28: Crews moved into Banfield Park in late October to begin work to install a concrete vault and connecting duct bank. In this photo crews are moving in equipment and fencing. The vault placement and approximate cable duct bank route are shown in blue.



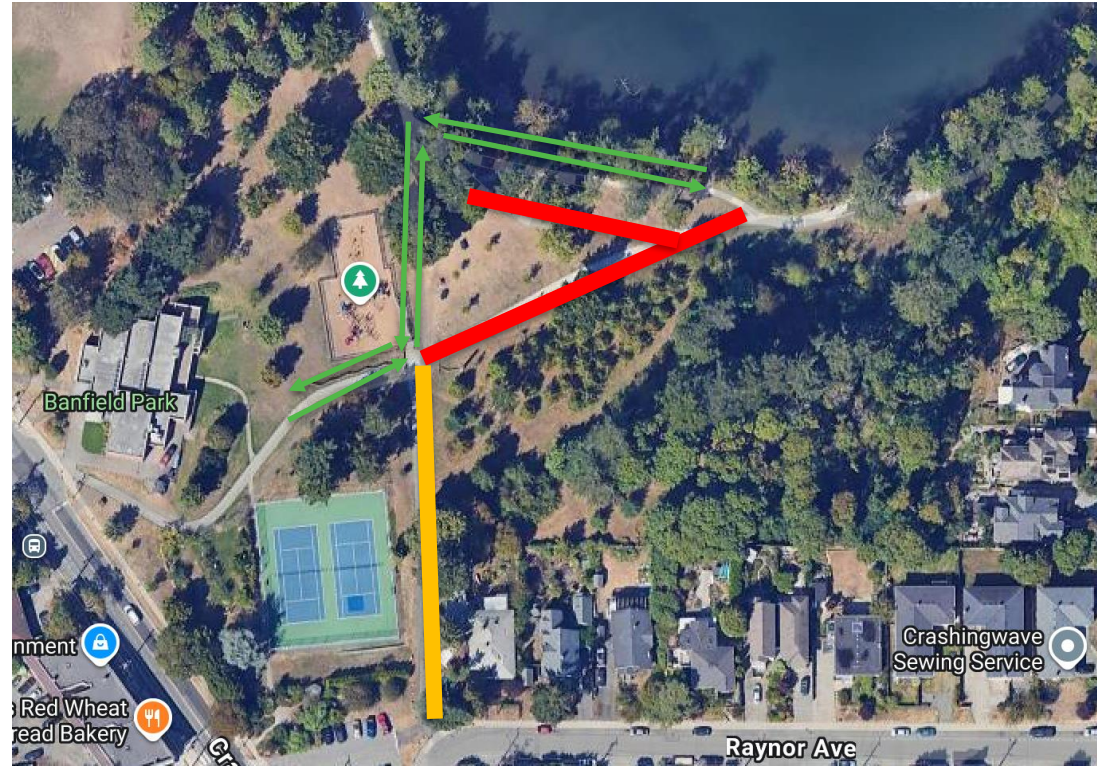
Pedestrian and bike traffic management plan – Banfield Park

Work timeline:

- Work will take place Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, to December 19.
- Open excavation where concrete vault installation is located.
- Duct bank installation work to follow, as well as marine work into the Gorge Waterway and cable pulling from the concrete vault.

Traffic management:

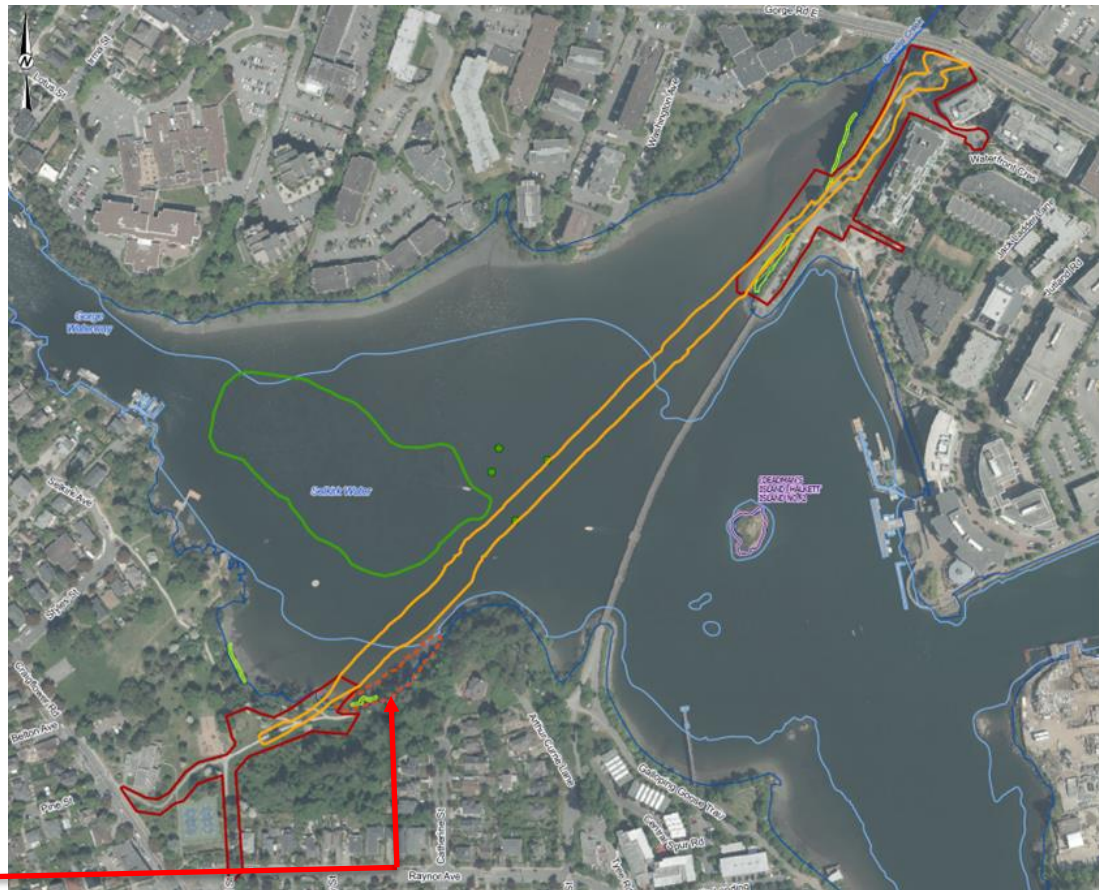
- Red area shows closed trails.
- Orange area shows intermittent closures to move in supplies and equipment.
- Green arrows show short detour for pedestrians and bikes.
- Follow the directions of flaggers and detour signs.



Fisheries Act Authorization and a habitat offsetting saltmarsh

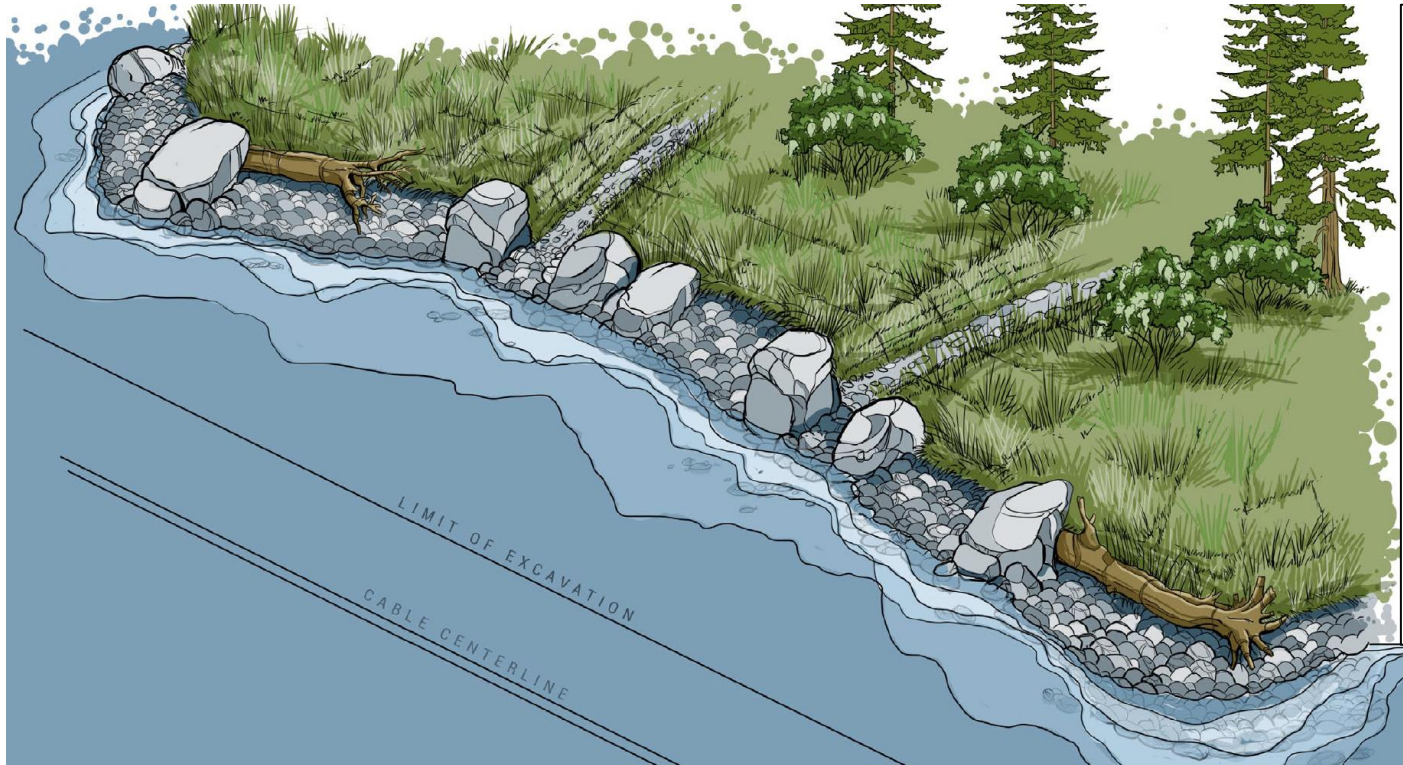
In May 2025, an application was submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for a Fisheries Act Authorization (FAA) to enable construction work within the Gorge Waterway and foreshore areas within the fisheries work window. It was resubmitted on August 29 with a larger project footprint. We may receive the FAA in early November.

The application proposed the creation of an intertidal saltmarsh along a shoreline at Banfield Park, as an offset of potential impacts to fish habitat within the Gorge Waterway during construction.



Saltmarsh offset

We are engaging with First Nations, City of Victoria, and the Gorge Waterway Initiative on the habitat offsetting. The saltmarsh area may be about 1,000 m² depending on the actual habitat impacts from the cable placement within the Gorge Waterway. Subject to FAA approval, the saltmarsh may be built in December 2026 and be planted in 2027. Below is an artist's rendition of the saltmarsh at Banfield Park and the goal is to make it natural looking and structurally sound. The saltmarsh will be monitored for five years to ensure it is successful.



Marine duct bank construction – summer 2026:

Using a series of barges with an excavator, a trench that may be about 1.5 metres deep and about 3 metres wide, will be excavated across the Gorge Waterway to enable the placement of the conduit. About 20,000 cubic metres of material will be removed and replaced with clean material, with the last layer of coverage being similar to the surrounding Gorge Waterway sediment substrate.

Gorge Waterway marine moved to the summer fisheries work window

The project team pushed hard to complete the marine work within the December 1, 2025 to February 15, 2026 fisheries work window. Some of the challenges included possible winter storm events, trench infilling, short daylight days, Christmas break, available contractor crews and equipment, overlapping space requirements between land work and marine work in the two parks, impacts to the Galloping Goose Trail, worker safety considerations, contractor constructability design, permitting, and other considerations. With too many risks and uncertainties, we made the decision to shift the marine work to the July 1 to September 30, 2026 fisheries work window. This will provide more time for planning to successfully complete the work.

We continue to closely engage First Nations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, City of Victoria, Capital Regional District, Ministry of Transportation and Transit, and other key stakeholders such as the Gorge Waterway Initiative, to consider social and environmental interests as we plan our work within the Gorge Waterway.

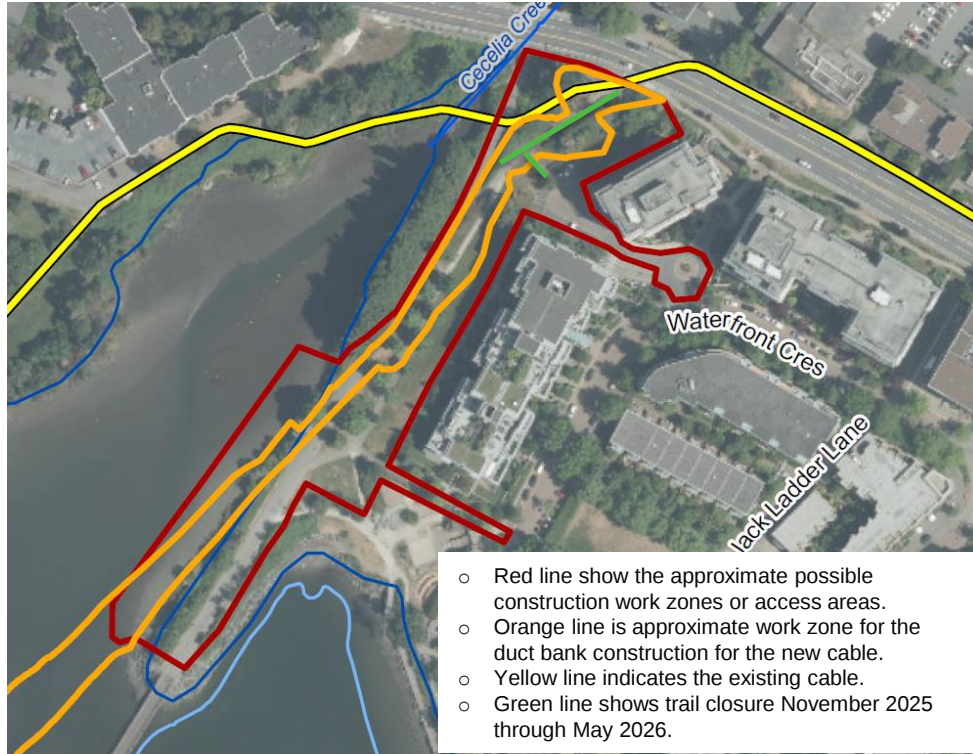
The shift in marine work is about seven months, though the project in-service date for the new cable moves out about three to four months to early fall.



Cable route under the
Gorge Waterway

Construction considerations: Viaduct Park

We have been coordinating with the City of Victoria, Capital Regional District, and Ministry of Transportation and Transit on the duct bank work within Viaduct Park. The work began with tree removals on October 29 and mobilization into the park is planned on November 3 to build an access road down from Gorge Road.



Traffic management: There will be intermittent and short duration eastbound Gorge Road closures to move in equipment and materials. Please obey signage, to be placed by November 3, and flaggers.

The general phasing of the work: will include shoring pile work for about four weeks starting November 17, the concrete vault, soil removal, vault placement, and duct bank work. We will also build an improved pathway – information on that will be provided in the November construction report – up to Gorge Road and provide eventual restoration and landscaping within Viaduct Park.

Shoring work and Galloping Goose Trail detour: The large crane and shoring process for the area around the concrete vault, and the noise and vibrations from this work activity along with public and worker safety, requires a Galloping Goose Trail detour starting next month.



Construction considerations: Galloping Goose Trail temporary closure and detour

Coordinated with Capital Regional District and City of Victoria.

Temporary trail closure and detour for bikes and pedestrians:
starting November 17, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday to Friday,
through December 19.

- Improvements along the detour route, for all ages and abilities, mainly at Napier Lane and Cecelia Ravine Bike Park, will be made prior to November 17 along the detour route.

Large detour awareness signs (northbound shown on right) will be posted at two locations along the Galloping Goose Trail on November 3 to provide advance notice. A media notice will also be issued on November 3 on the temporary Galloping Goose Trail closure and detour.

TEMPORARY DETOUR: GALLOPING GOOSE TRAIL

November 17 to December 19, 2025, Monday to Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Open Saturdays and Sundays

VIADUCT PARK – BC HYDRO CABLE INSTALLATION SHORING WORK



FOR PUBLIC AND WORKER SAFETY DO NOT ENTER THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE AT VIADUCT PARK

Please follow the detour route through the Cecelia Ravine Bike Park and Napier Lane, to Cecelia Road, Jutland Road, and Waterfront Crescent to return to the Galloping Goose Trail.

Contact: Stephen Watson at steve.watson@bchydro.com or 1250 616 9888

Learn more about the Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project at
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