

Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Community Construction Report #8

December 2025

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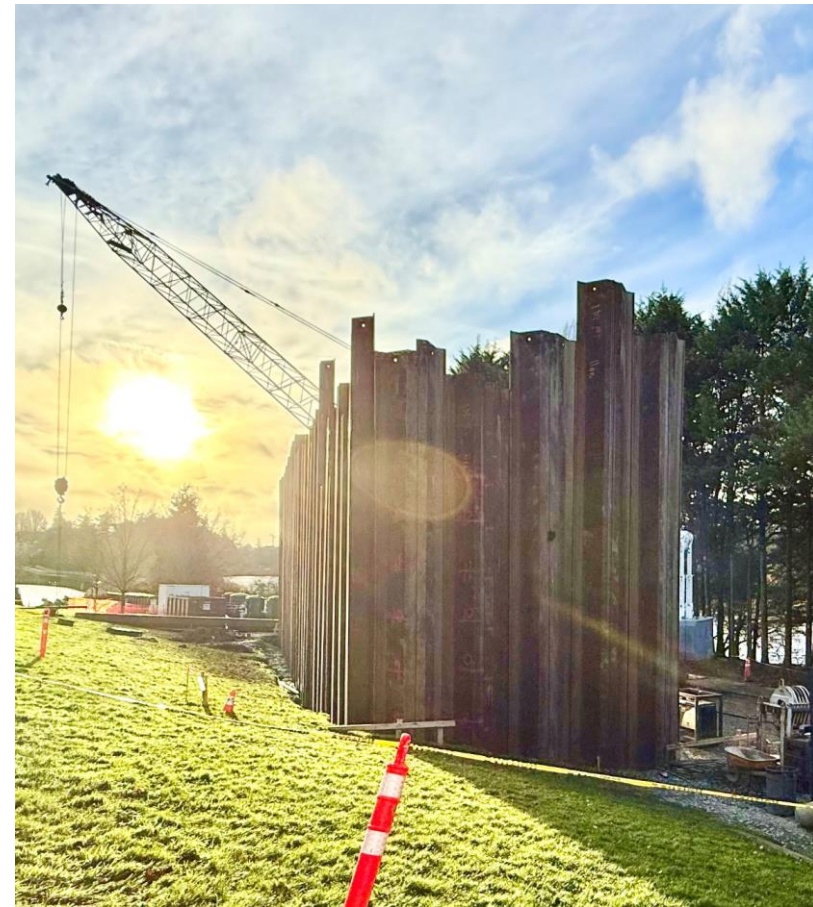
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Project status

- Crews have been working in Banfield Park, Viaduct Park, Douglas Street and Topaz Avenue.
- Banfield Park: Concrete vault and duct bank to the path by the playground is complete. Site temporarily restored with gravel crush. Crews will return in mid-January to place electrical service to the vault from Raynor Avenue. In February, crews will install duct bank from the vault to an area close to the foreshore. The marine work is planned for this summer.
- Viaduct Park: Sheet pile shoring work is planned to be complete by end of day December 23. Some welding and then contractor demobilization the week of January 5. Soil excavation for the vault is planned to begin on January 12 with the concrete vault placement planned in February.
- Douglas Street: Crews completed investigative work in mid-December along the planned duct bank route across Douglas Street to the confirm existing underground utilities and determine any potential conflicts prior to the duct bank work starting on January 12.
 - Crews will be on Douglas Street for up to five weeks. Douglas Street traffic management plans are shown near the end of this report.
- Topaz Avenue: The duct bank work and concrete vault placement along Topaz Avenue is complete and the area is restored.
- All project construction work will stop December 20 through January 11, except for Viaduct Park.



December 5: Metal sheet pile shoring work in Viaduct Park.



Planning the cable route – construction timing

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

Esquimalt Substation work completed February to March 2025

Pine St and a section of Banfield Park completed June 2025

Banfield Park: work in January and into March 2026

Gorge Waterway shallow burial and adjacent parks: Summer 2026 fisheries work window – July 1 to October 1

Gorge Road and Viaduct Park: work in November 2025 to November 2026

Dunedin Street: Crews will work westward beginning in mid-February 2026

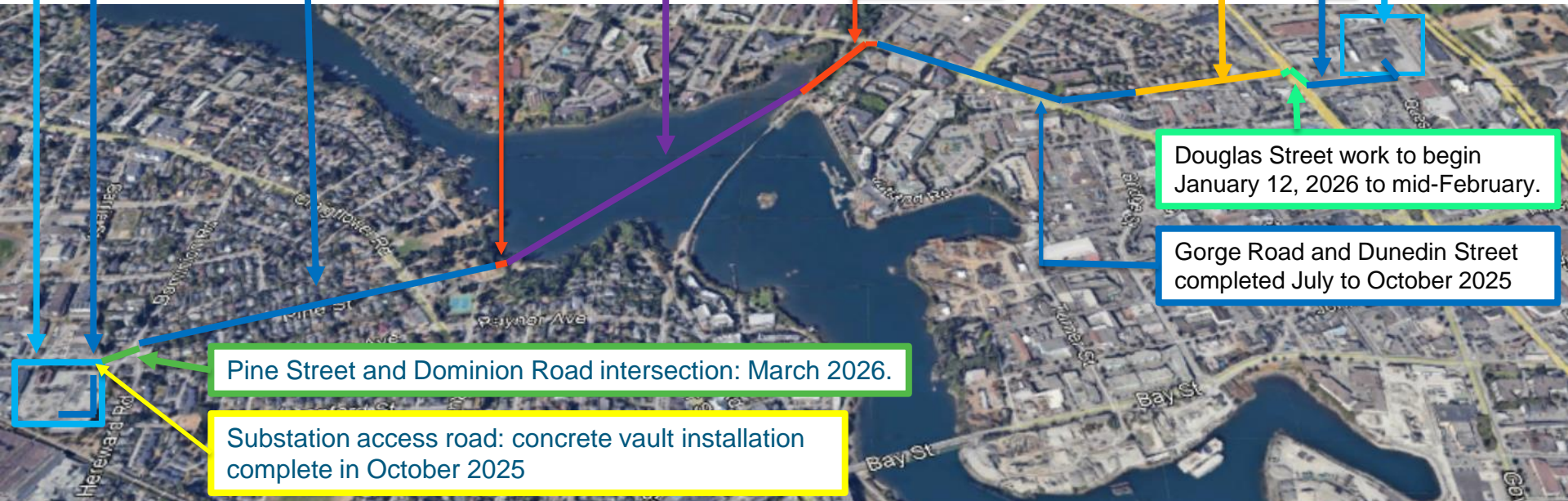
Topaz Avenue: completed December 2025

Douglas Street work to begin January 12, 2026 to mid-February.

Gorge Road and Dunedin Street completed July to October 2025

Pine Street and Dominion Road intersection: March 2026.

Substation access road: concrete vault installation complete in October 2025



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 5: View from Gorge Road of the sheet pile work within Viaduct Park to assist with the excavation for the underground concrete cable vault. The temporary closed Galloping Goose Trail, detoured around Viaduct Park, is in the foreground.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 5: The sheet pile work from the new access road that comes down from Gorge Road. Our sheet pile contractor is Heavy Metal Marine.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 5: Work on the frame for the sheet pile placements. The inset photo shows some of the ongoing welding work to ensure each sheet is lined up and is guided into the ground to provide one cohesive wall to keep out groundwater during soil excavation.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 5: View of the sheet pile work with two of the four sides complete.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 5: View near the condominium building of the sheet pile work. The sheets are 15 metres long and 1.4 metres wide and are driven in about 5 to 6 metres. Once all the sheet piles are started and aligned, they will be pushed up to 10 metres into the ground to enable the soil excavation and water management.



Four additional days were added to the trail closure due to the presence of underground wood material. We would like thank the trail users for their patience. A Times Colonist media story on the extension:

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/galloping-goose-closure-and-detour-extended-11575486>

Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 5: View of the sheet pile work area from the sidewalk that's part of the Galloping Goose Trail detour.



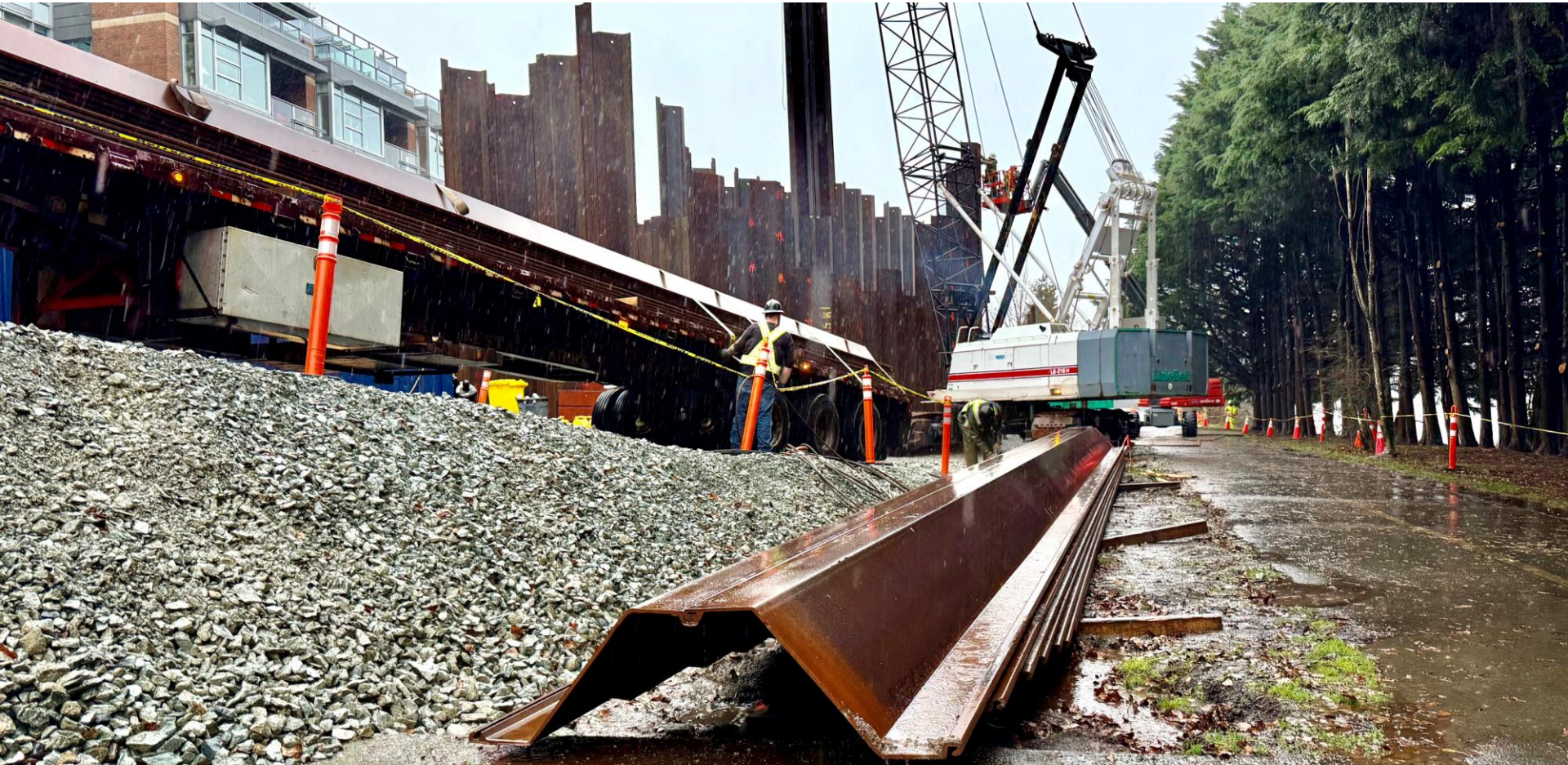
Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 10: Bringing in more sheet piles for the shoring work.



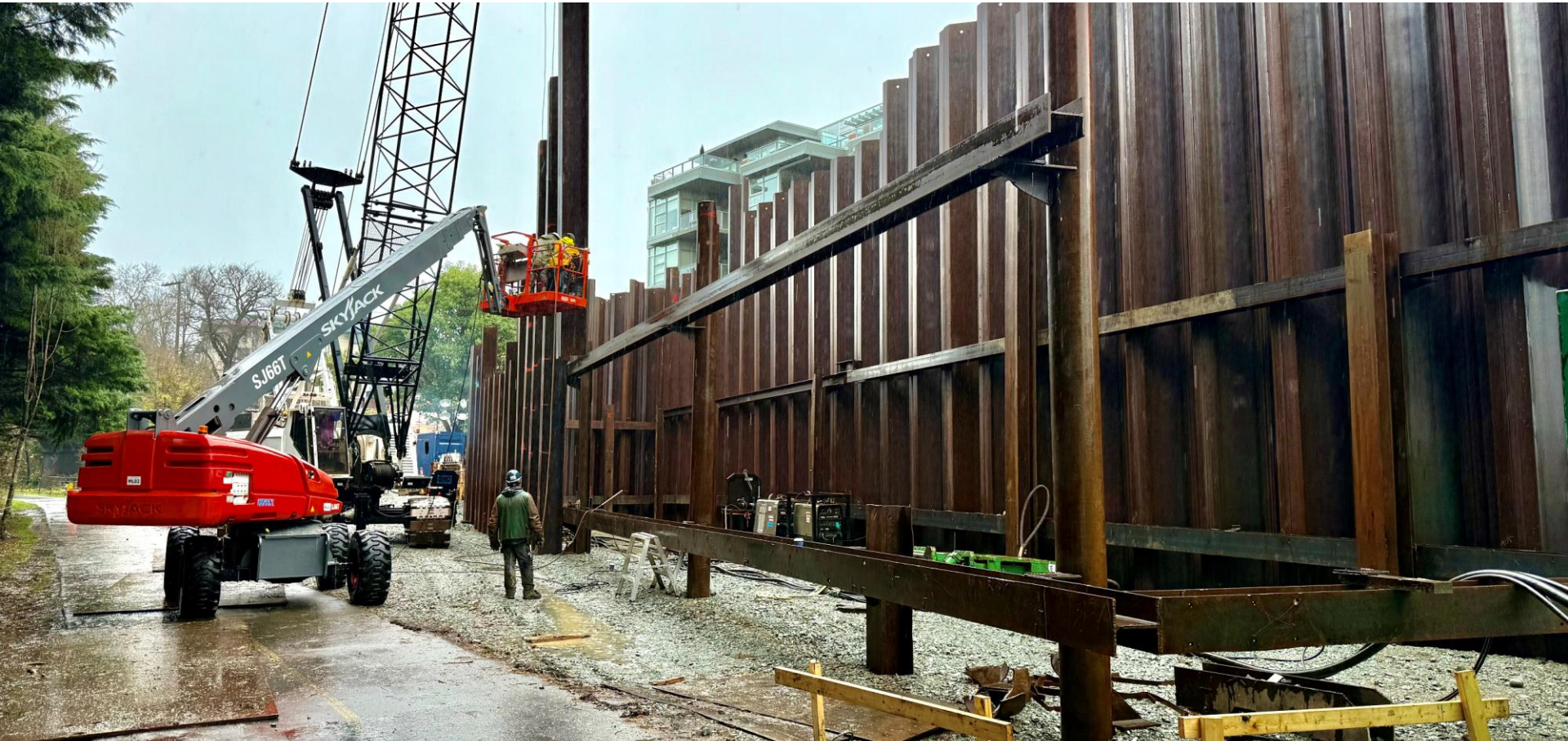
Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 10: Sheet piles and the placement of the sheet piles around the concrete cable vault area.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 10: Advancing the sheet pile work.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

December 16: Nearing completion of the sheet pile setting before lowering them all into the ground.



Construction photos: Banfield Park

December 5: Crews working above the new concrete vault placed within the park.



Construction photos: Banfield Park

December 5: A look inside the 20-metre-long concrete vault. These vaults are where the duct bank will enter and provide crews with access to pull in and splice the power cables together. The cable pulling work may take place around the end of summer 2026.



Construction photos: Banfield Park

December 10: Duct bank work leading to the concrete vault in the background.



Construction photos: Banfield Park

December 10: View from above the concrete vault looking towards the duct bank work.



Construction photos: Banfield Park

December 10: Crews managing work during an atmospheric river weather event. The water treatment facilities were used to manage surface water around the duct bank work and the concrete vault. The operating power generator is within a spill prevention kit.



Construction photos: Topaz Avenue

December 4: Placing duct bank along Topaz Avenue and towards Douglas Street, as shown in the background in the right photo.



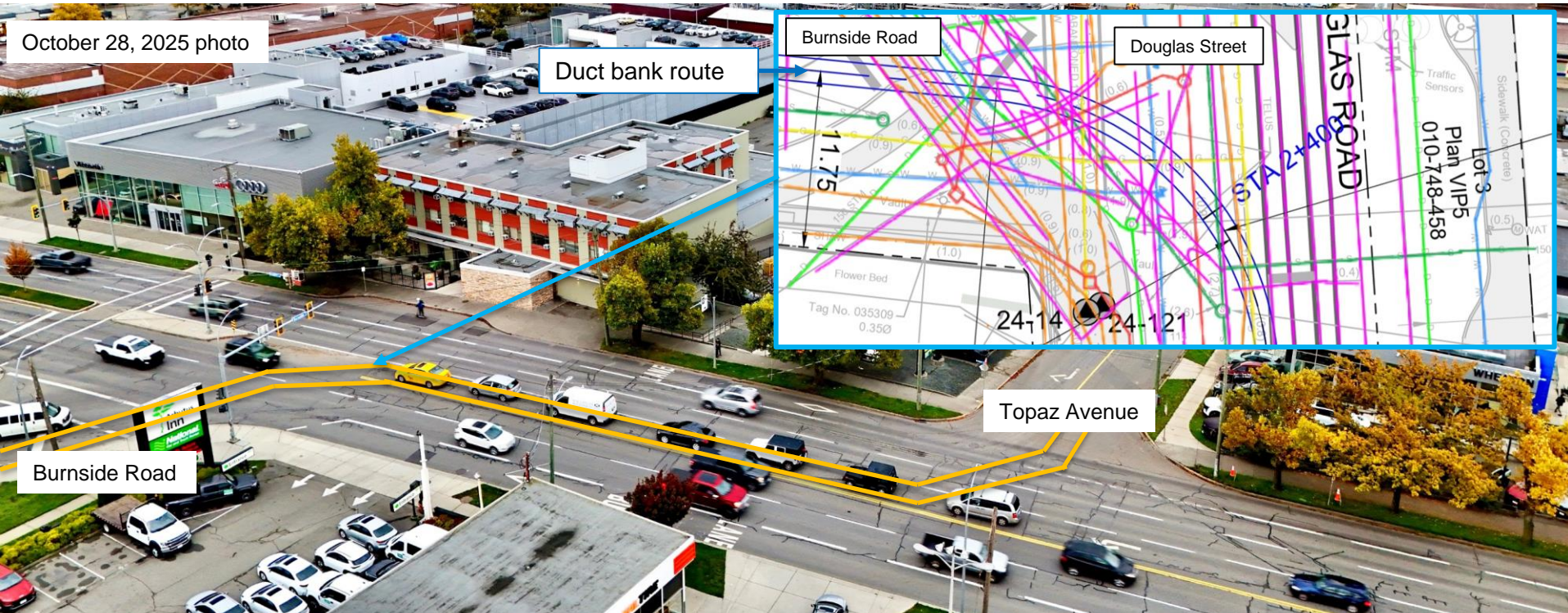
Construction photos: Topaz Avenue

December 5: Crews making the final touches before the concrete curb work and repaving. The compacted gravel area along Topaz Avenue shows where the duct and concrete vault work took place.



Douglas Street Traffic Considerations

The photo below shows the approximate location of the duct bank trench work (orange lines) that will come out of Topaz Avenue and move up Douglas Street, and across to the Burnside Road intersection, and into Dunedin Street. The inset underground scan map illustrates the complexity of underground services and infrastructure (pink lines are unknown works that have been located) that crews will need to excavate above, below, or through. Crews did investigative work along Douglas Street in mid-December to help with the constructability plan along some challenging street areas to try to limit the construction time on Douglas Street.



Traffic management plan: Douglas Street

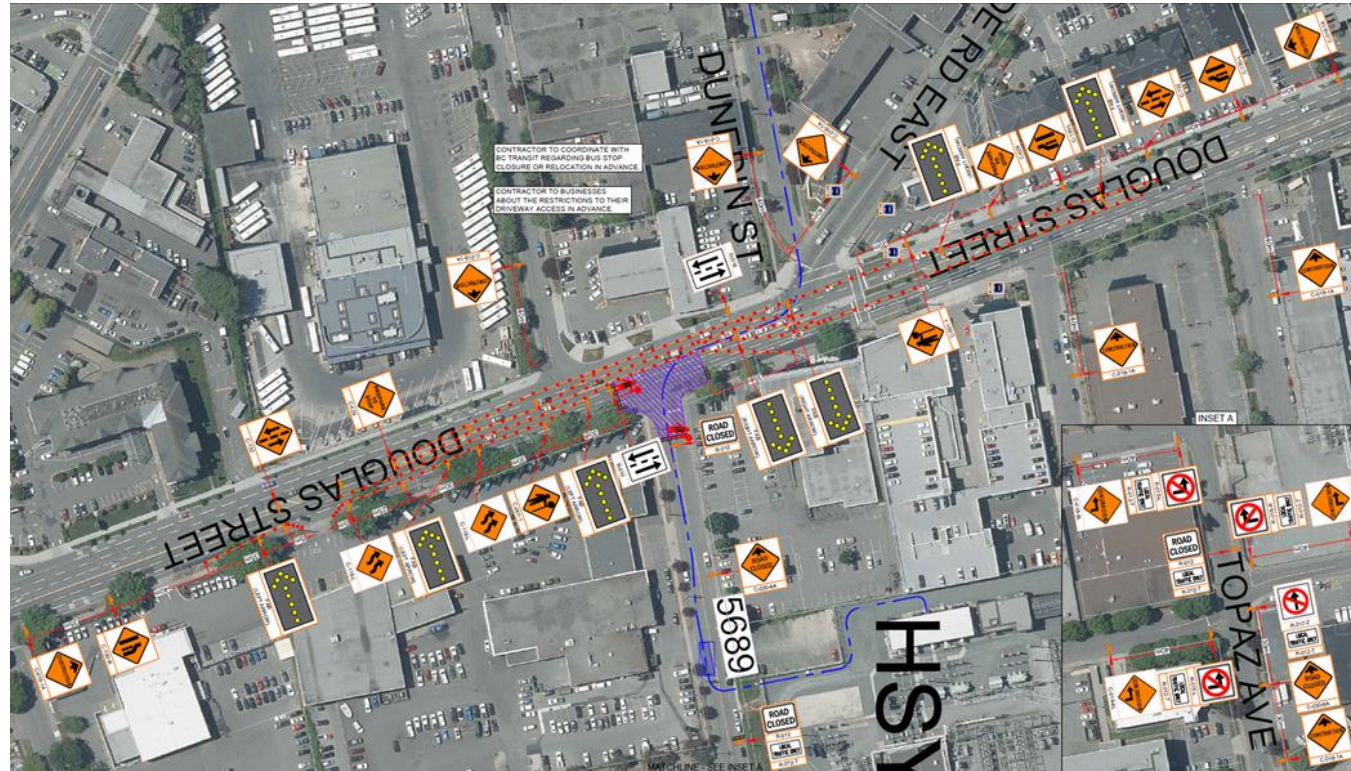
Phase 1 begins January 12: coming out of Topaz Avenue onto Douglas Street. The blue hash-mark area is the duct bank work area.

Two lanes open southbound and one to two lanes northbound.

No left turn onto Burnside Road for northbound Douglas Street traffic.

Access to Topaz Avenue from Douglas Street will be closed. Please access Topaz Avenue from Quesnel, Nanaimo or Blanshard streets.

A media notice will be issued and electronic sign boards will be in place on January 5 to help advise the community of the Douglas Street work.



Traffic management plan: Douglas Street

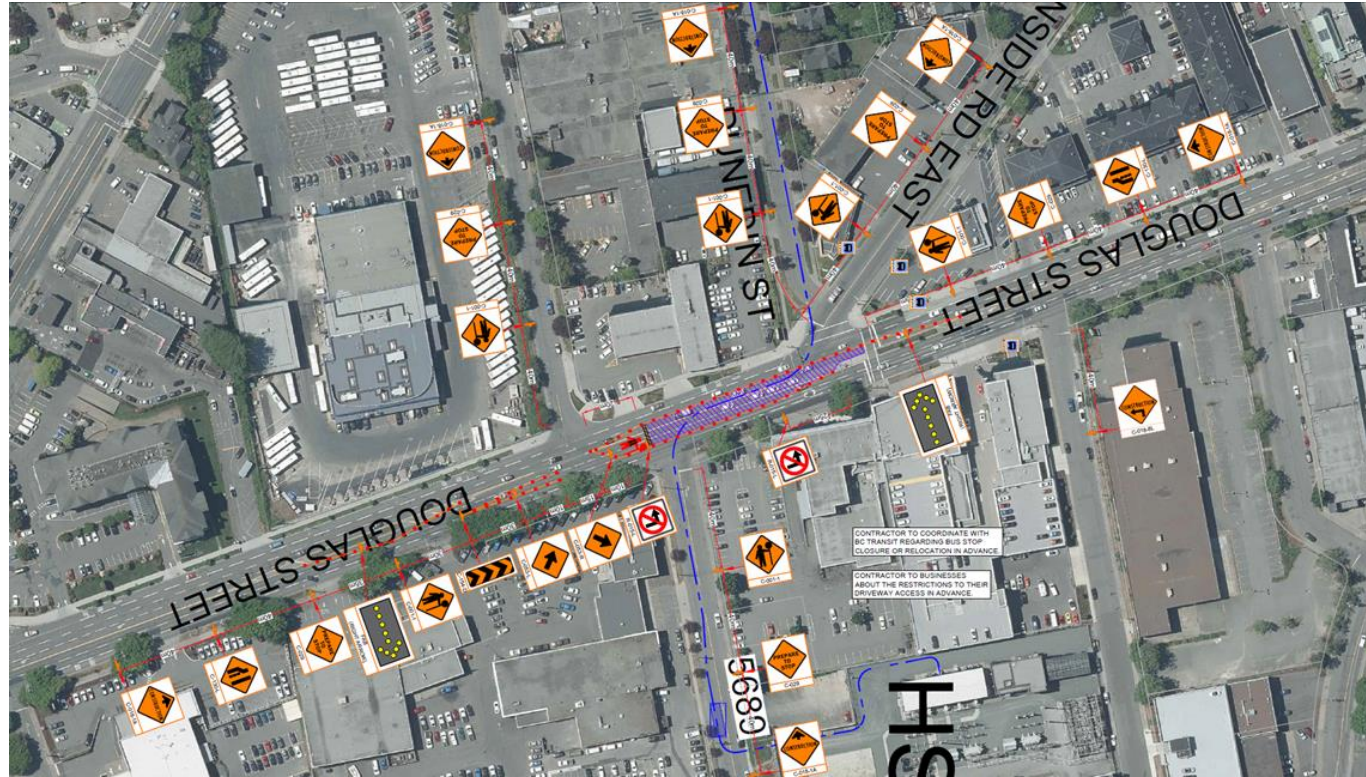
Phase 2 to start sometime the week of January 19: moving down the middle of Douglas Street. The blue hash-mark area is the duct bank work area.

Two lanes open in both directions.

No left turn onto Burnside Road for northbound Douglas Street traffic.

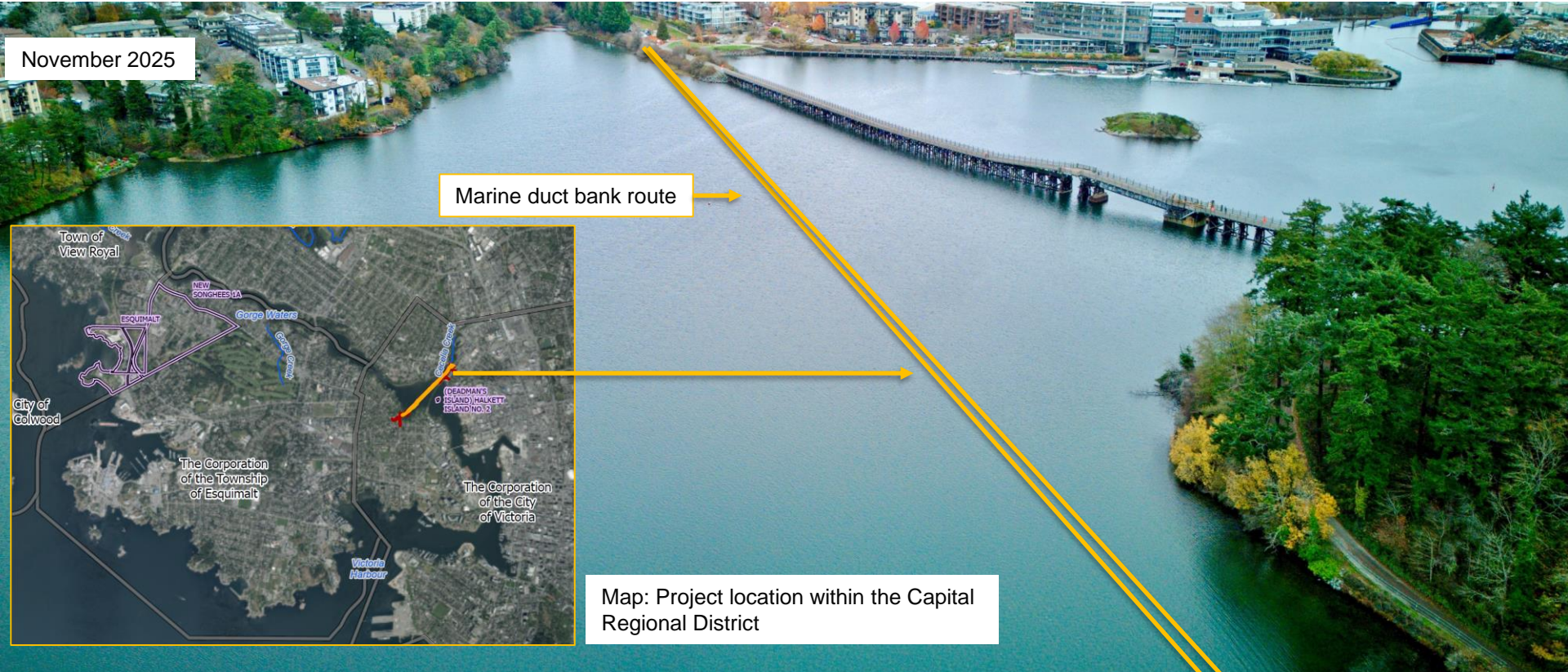
Phase 3: The traffic management plan for the area of Douglas Street going into Burnside Road and Dunedin Street will be provided in the January construction report.

The work cannot be carried out at night for crew safety and the extent of open excavation.



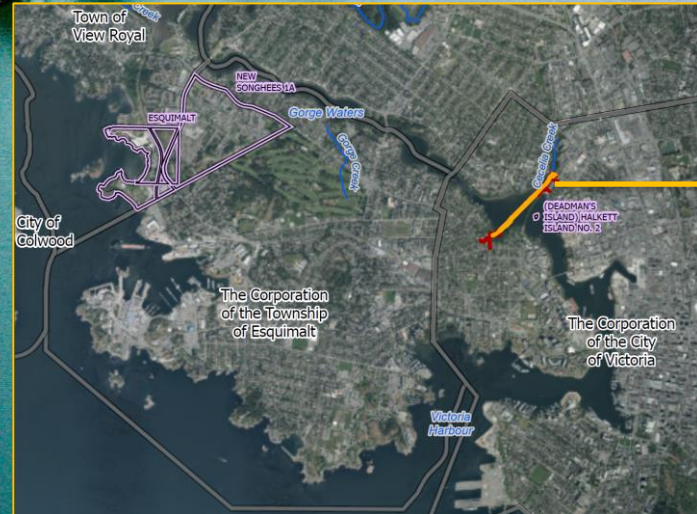
Gorge Waterway – Navigable Waters

The marine construction work this summer will include the excavation of a trench across the Gorge Waterway from foreshore to foreshore. There will be barges, excavators, service barges, silt curtains and other supporting works and equipment as we move across the marine area. The work will follow a Construction Environmental Management Plan. While we do the work within the Gorge Waterway we will restrict access to work areas for public safety, though there will be navigation around the work zone.



November 2025

Marine duct bank route



Map: Project location within the Capital Regional District

Gorge Waterway – Navigable Waters

One of the key pieces of the marine work is the placement of the conduit or pipe within the trench. To place the conduit sections, the Gorge Waterway will need to be closed by the Selkirk Trestle for about three to 10 days. Exact dates and timing are to be determined. To minimize potential conflicts with water recreation events, a notice was issued on December 8 to various water recreation groups, associations and businesses to track any planned community races, regattas, festivals or events within the Gorge Waterway from June through September 2026. We are working with Transport Canada on the project, and permission for the marine closure falls under the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*.

