

Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Community Construction Report #9

January 2026

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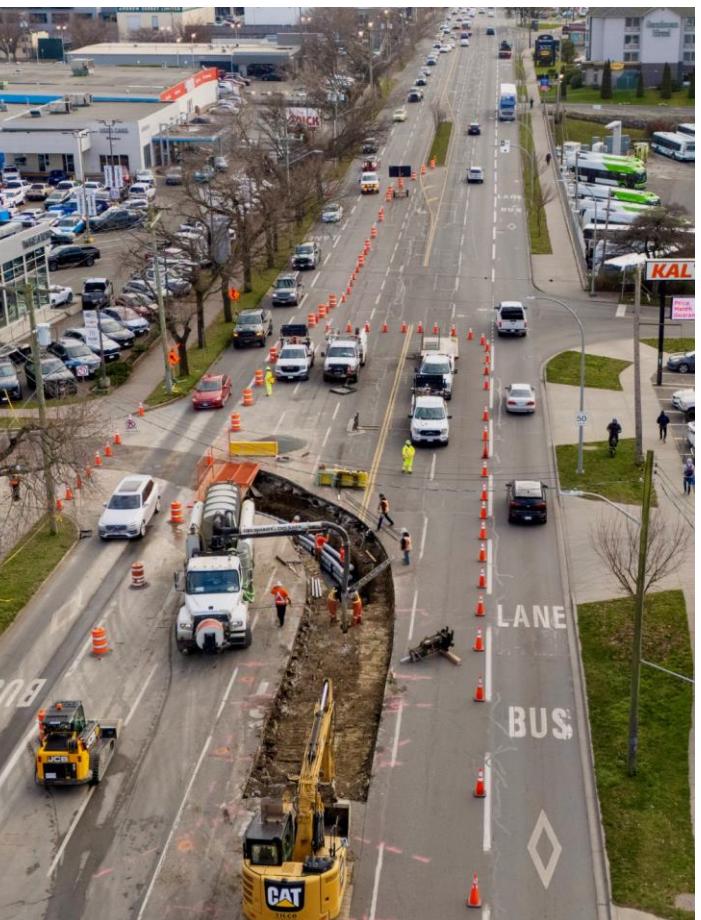
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Project status

- Crews have been working in Banfield Park, Viaduct Park, Douglas Street and Topaz Avenue. Crews will begin work at the Esquimalt Substation by the E&N Trail.
- Banfield Park: Crews have installed electrical service works to the concrete vault. 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: Soil excavation for the concrete vault is underway with the concrete vault placement planned in February. Work will begin in March to build the duct bank up to Gorge Road. A small area between the vault area and the Galloping Goose Trail will also be completed this spring.
- Douglas Street: Crews are currently finishing up the phase 2 of the duct bank route across Douglas Street, and plan to begin the phase 3 on February 2. Work on Douglas Street is hoped to be finished by February 13. Douglas Street traffic management plans are shown near the end of this report.
- Dunedin Street: Work is planned to begin in mid-February and a traffic management plan is shown at the end of this report.
- Esquimalt Substation and proximity to E&N Trail and Hereward Green Park: In the first week of February crews will begin to put up perimeter fencing along the substation lands.
- A community meeting, initiated by the Burnside-Gorge Community Association, was held on January 19 with about 50 attendees to discuss the project and the coordination between the Capital Regional District and the City of Victoria. The project also presented to the Gorge Waterway Initiative on January 21.



January 26: Duct bank work on Douglas Street.



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 to November 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

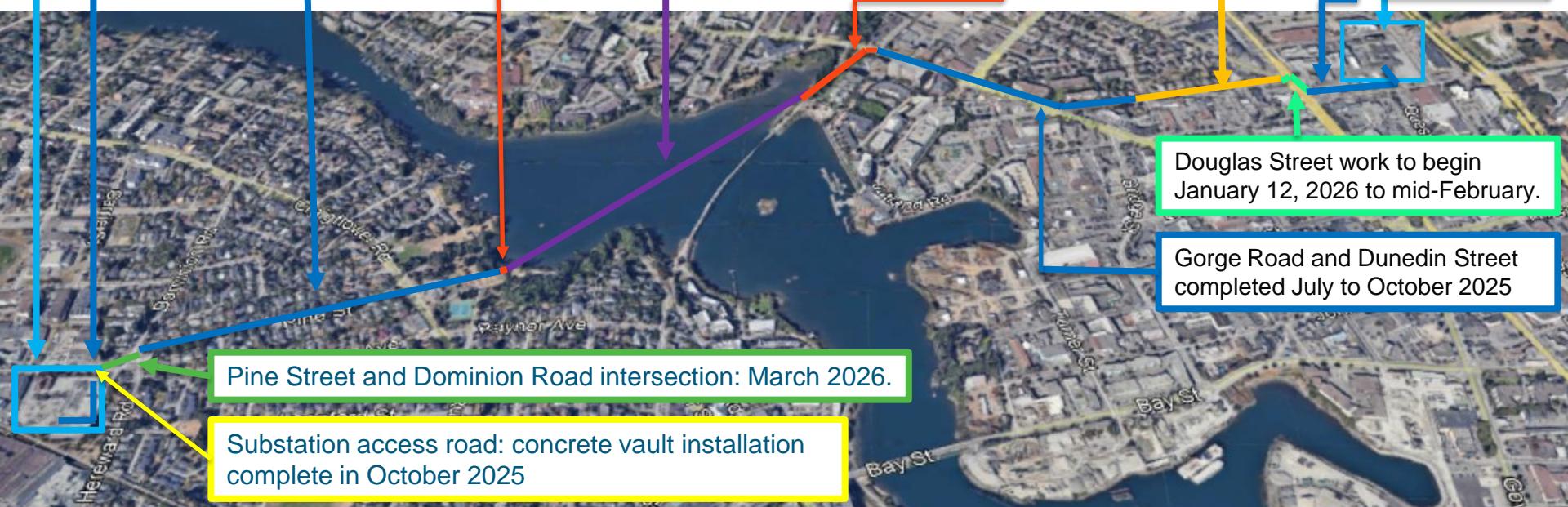
Topaz Avenue: completed December 2025

Pine Street and Dominion Road intersection: March 2026.

Substation access road: concrete vault installation complete in October 2025

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

Gorge Road and Dunedin Street completed July to October 2025



Photos: Esquimalt Substation

January 26: E&N Trail beside the substation lands and the adjacent City of Victoria's Hereward Green Park. Work will begin in early February to expand the substation footprint with the first step being the placement of construction fencing – orange line – by the trail. This will enable the placement of underground cable duct bank near the perimeter of the property. The fence extension will also provide room for future upgrades within the substation lands to keep up with electricity load growth. The new fencing means the informal trail (yellow arrows) through BC Hydro lands connecting the E&N Trail to Hereward Road will be permanently closed.

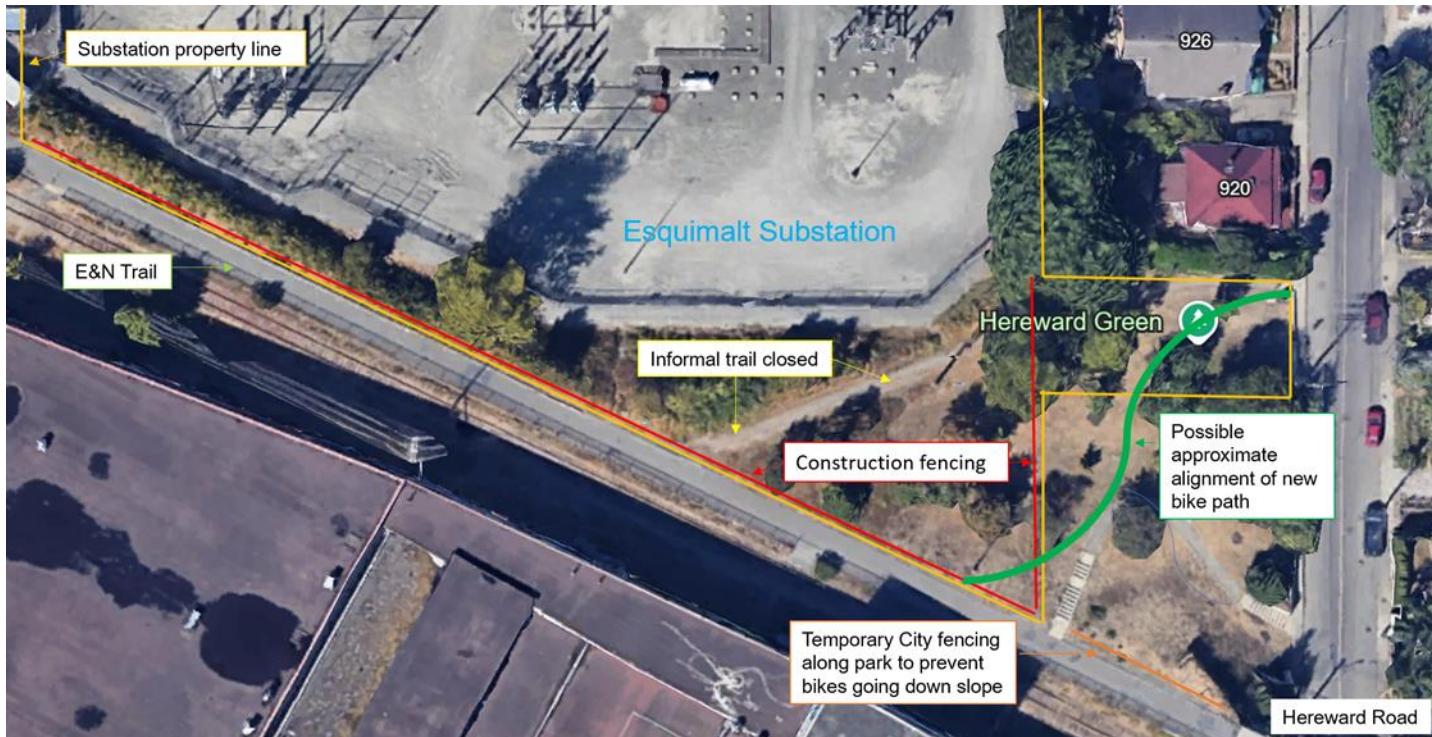


Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

View of the E&N Trail, Esquimalt Substation lands and Hereward Green Park.

We are coordinating with the City of Victoria, Township of Esquimalt, and Capital Regional District (manager of the E&N Trail) on the possibility of a new trail for bikes to connect the E&N Trail to Hereward Road. The timing of a possible new relocated trail may be as early as fall 2026.

For the interim, all bike users are to dismount and walk up or down the pedestrian stairs and walkway within the park to or from Hereward Road.



Construction Schedule: Banfield Park

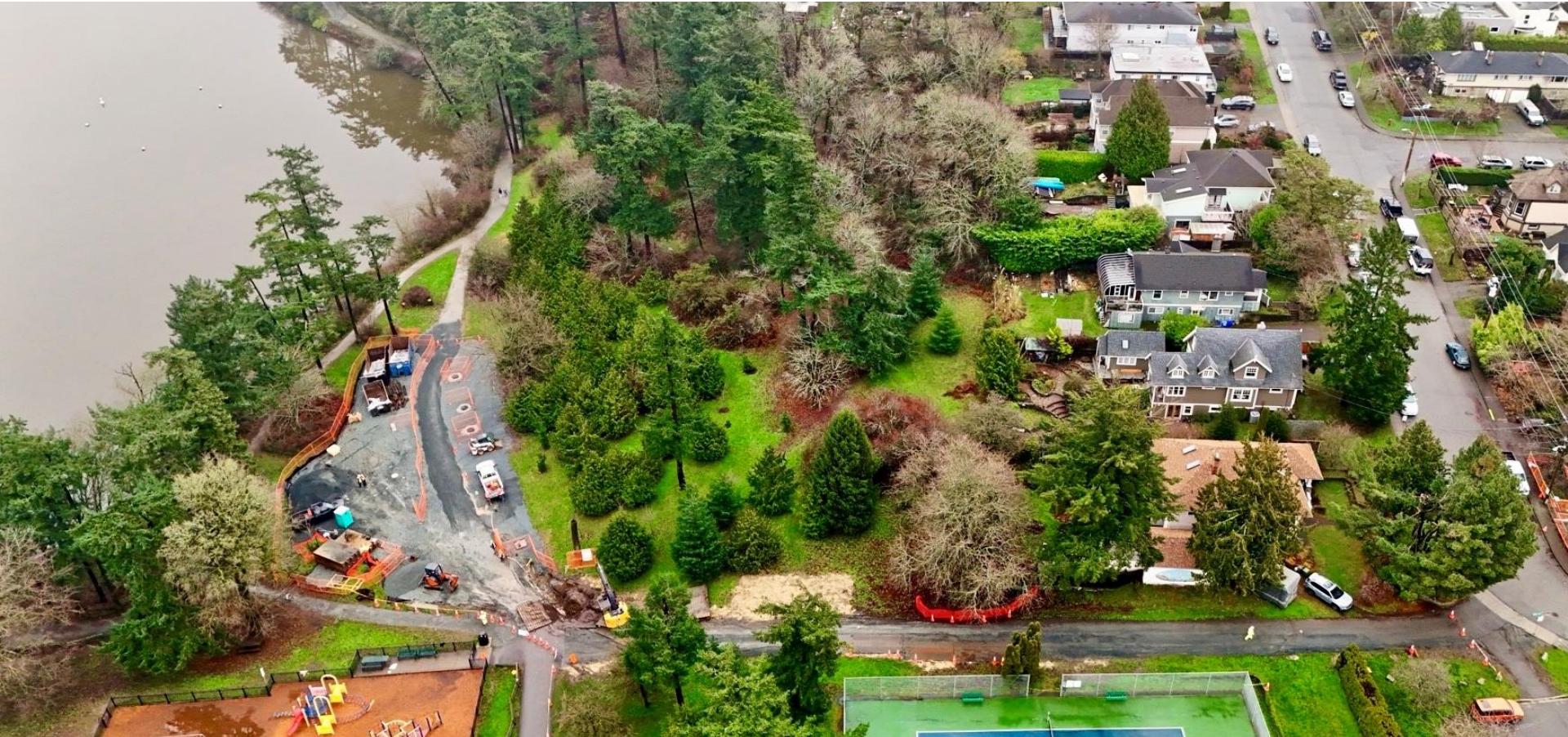
January 13: Drone view of the work site. The concrete vault is below the three cordoned off circular access lids. The general work plan for 2026/2027 for the park includes:

- January: Completed power conduit from Raynor Street to the concrete vault.
- January: Completed tree and brush removal within the riparian area (orange highlighted area) prior to bird nesting season.
- February: Anchor and duct bank work (red rectangle) from the concrete vault to near the gravel path by the foreshore.
- June: Cable pulling through the vault and conduits to the Esquimalt Substation.
- June-September: Gorge Waterway marine work to place conduit about 1.5 metres under the seabed.
- October: Cable pulling through the vaults and conduits to Viaduct Park.
- October-November: Banfield Park remediation and restoration of the work area to install the new duct bank and concrete vault.
- December thru 2027: Staged construction of saltmarsh within the foreshore area for fish habitat off-setting.



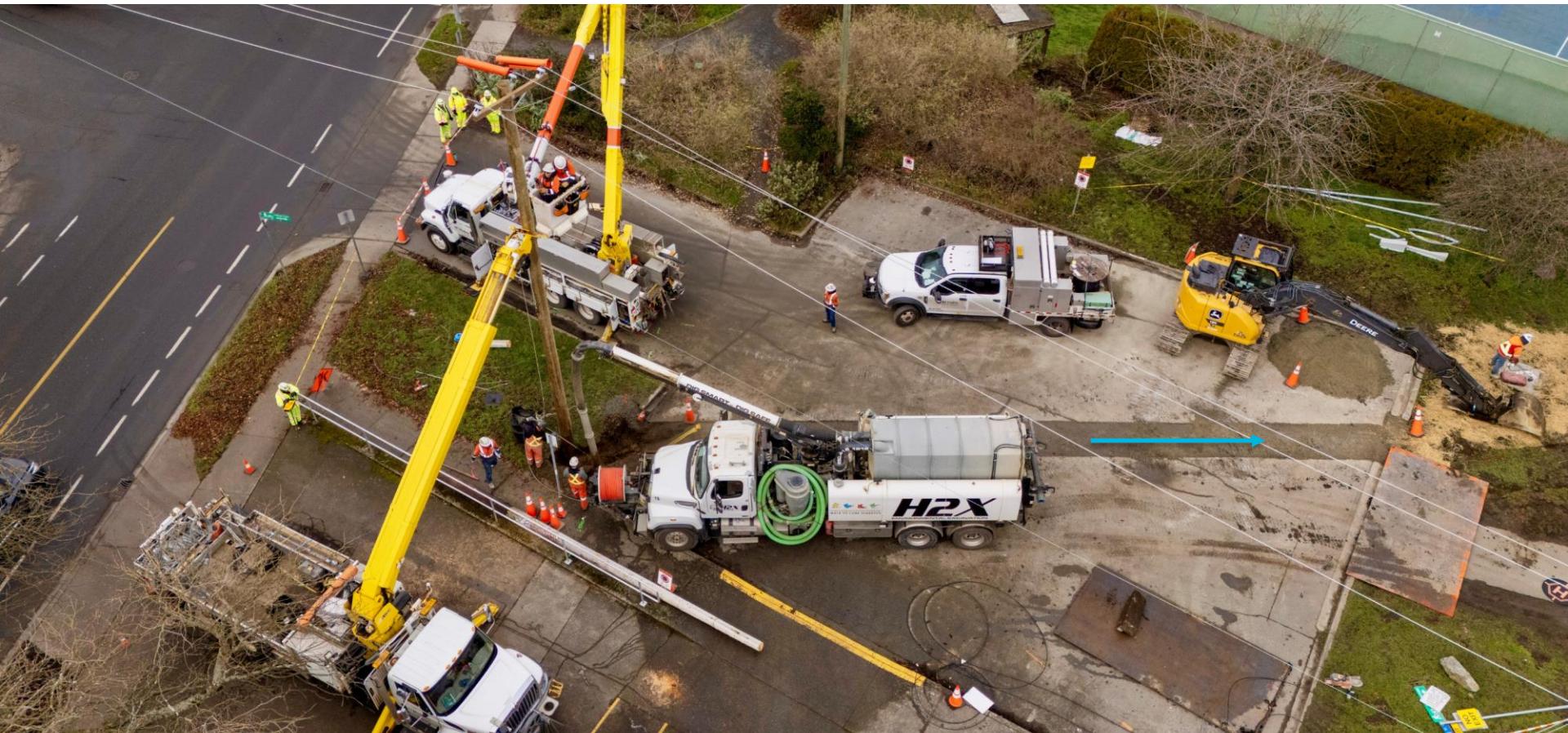
Construction photos: Banfield Park

January 13: Crews working on the power supply conduit that will go from the concrete vault up the park access road to a power pole near Craigflower Road. The power supply will provide lighting and other needs within the vault.



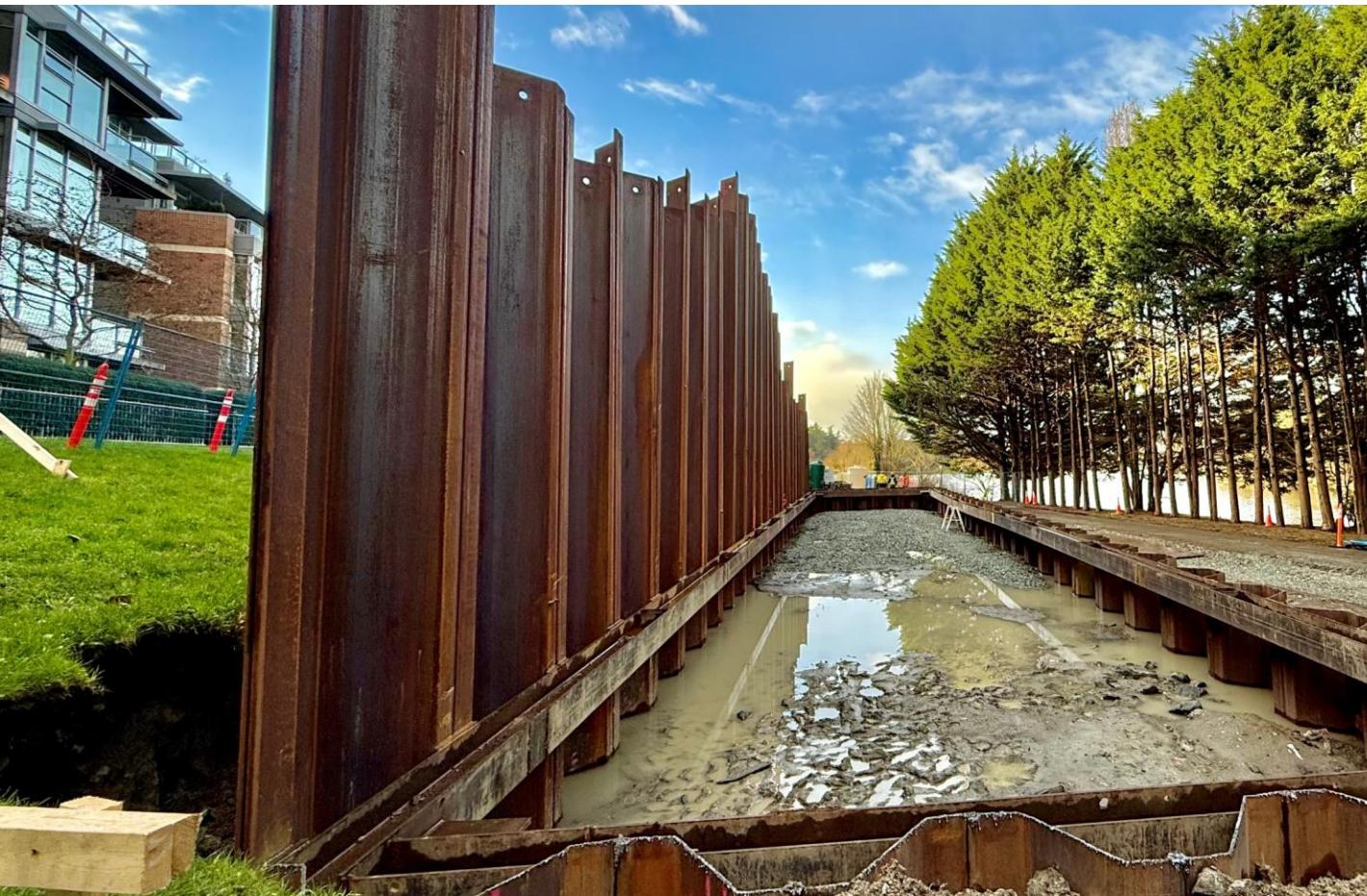
Construction photos: Banfield Park

January 26: Power line technicians changing out the pole by the park parking lot, off Craigflower Road, to provide electrical service to the concrete vault. The newly placed underground electrical conduit that leads from the pole to the vault is shown with the blue arrow.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

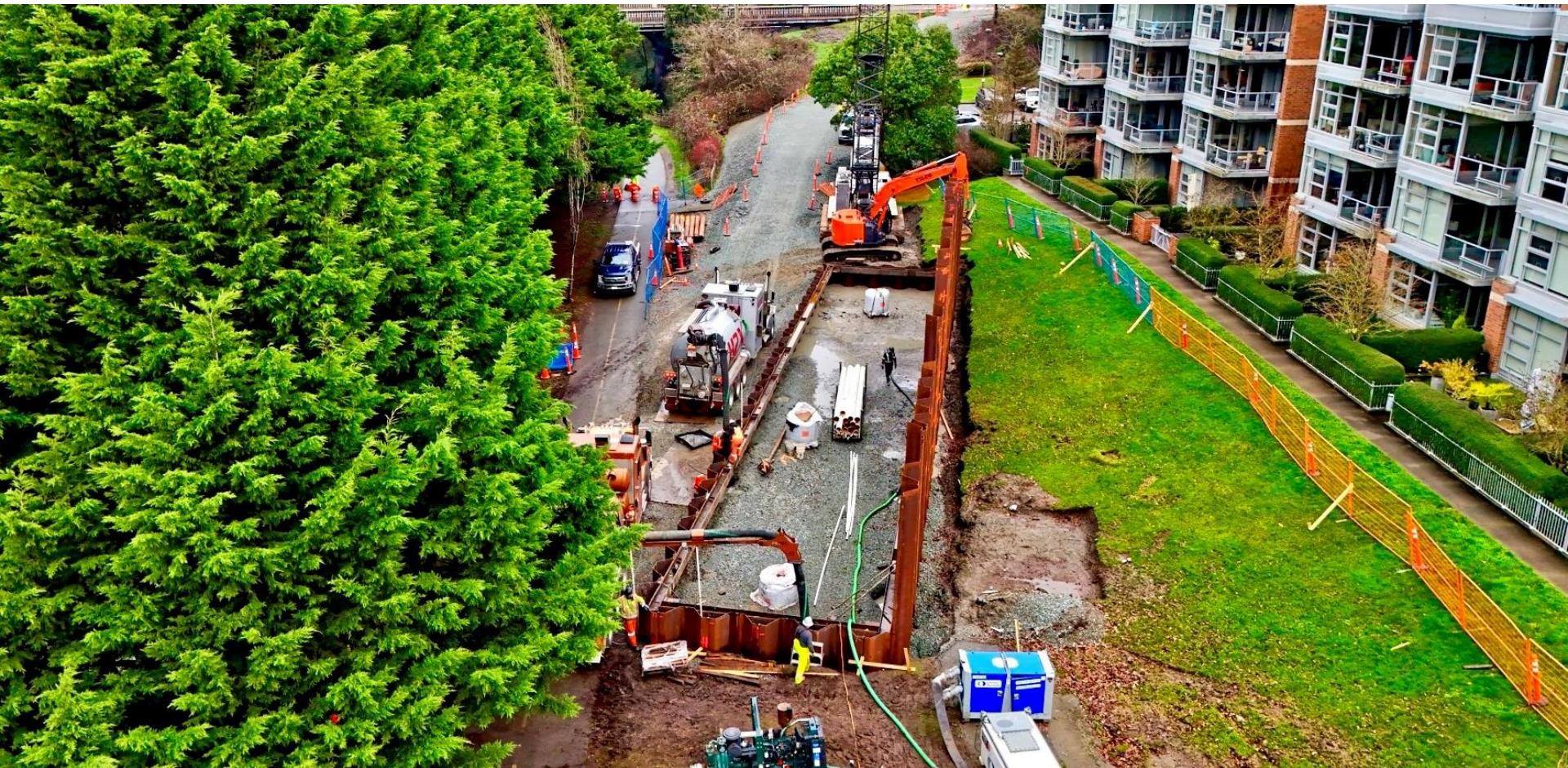
January 8: The completed steel sheet piles, set 7 to 10 metres deep, outline the excavation for the concrete vault. Looking westward.



Capital Regional District trail signage since December 19, 2025. Please follow the CRD website for the latest information:
<https://www.crd.ca/news/alerts/close-galloping-goose-regional-trail-victoria>

Construction photos: Viaduct Park

January 13: Installation of drainage works for water management during the soil excavation for the concrete vault.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

January 19: The first day of removing the soil within the metal sheet pile area. The water management system, shown by the white PVC pipes, was completed on January 16 to handle and treat ground water.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

January 19: Another angle of the soil removal work.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

January 21: Removal of the first 3 to 4 metres of soil and clay across the 40-metre length of the shoring area is shown nearly



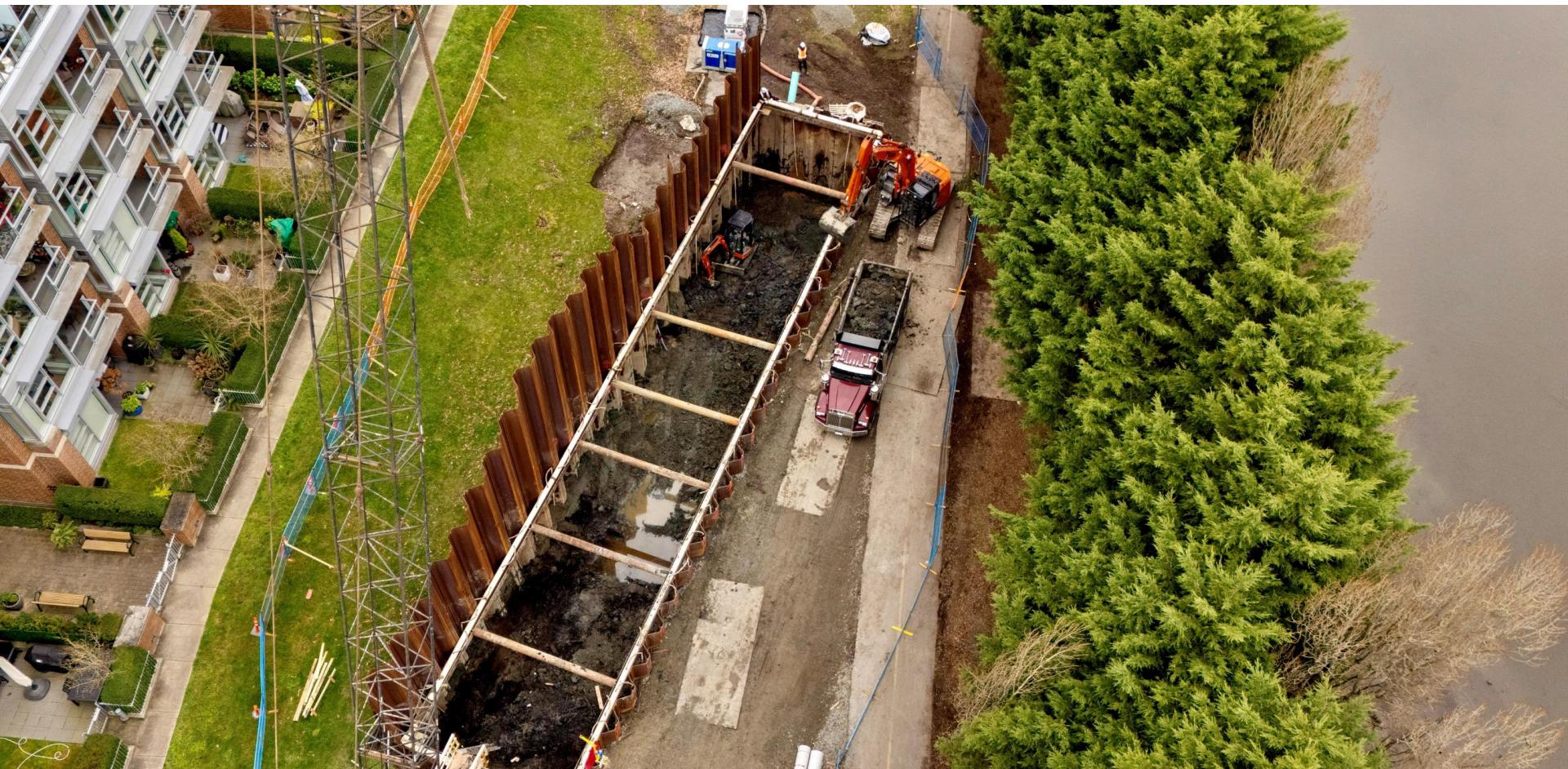
Construction photos: Viaduct Park

January 26: Ongoing work within the sheet pile area and the placement of a gravel pad for the placement of the concrete vault. The excavation is up to 5.4 metres deep. We plan to set the new concrete vault, in eight different sections, around mid-February and then backfill. The metal sheet piles will be removed around the end of February.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

January 26: The sheet piles and clay material created little ground water to manage, helping the excavation work and limiting noise.



Photos: Viaduct Park

Crews will be removing brush and trees within the outlined riparian area in early February, prior to bird nesting season.



Construction photos: Douglas Street

January 13: Duct bank work entering Douglas Street from Topaz Avenue. Two northbound Douglas Street lanes open.

BC Hydro work brings traffic delays to Douglas Street

Drivers can expect traffic delays along a stretch of Douglas Street starting Jan. 12 as BC Hydro crews begin work tied to a major infrastructure upgrade.

The work will take place on Douglas Street between Topaz Avenue and Burnside Road. Lane closures will be required during construction and are expected to last about five weeks.

BC Hydro says electronic message boards and street signage have been installed to alert drivers, and crews will try to keep an extra lane open during peak travel times.

During construction, northbound traffic on Douglas Street will not be permitted to turn left onto Burnside Road. For the first one or two weeks, access to Topaz Avenue from Douglas Street will also be closed. Access to Topaz

will remain available via Quesnel, Nanaimo and Blanshard streets.

The utility says the work cannot be done overnight due to safety concerns and the scope of the excavation.

The construction is part of BC Hydro's Victoria-to-Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project, which involves replacing a corroded underground transmission cable installed in 1980.

The new 230-kilovolt, oil-free insulated cable will run 2.3 kilometres beneath the streets of Victoria and Esquimalt.

BC Hydro says the project will improve reliability, reduce seismic risk and help meet growing energy demand in Greater Victoria.

More information on the project is available at bchydro.com/victoria-to-esquimalt.

Victoria News, January 8, page A11.



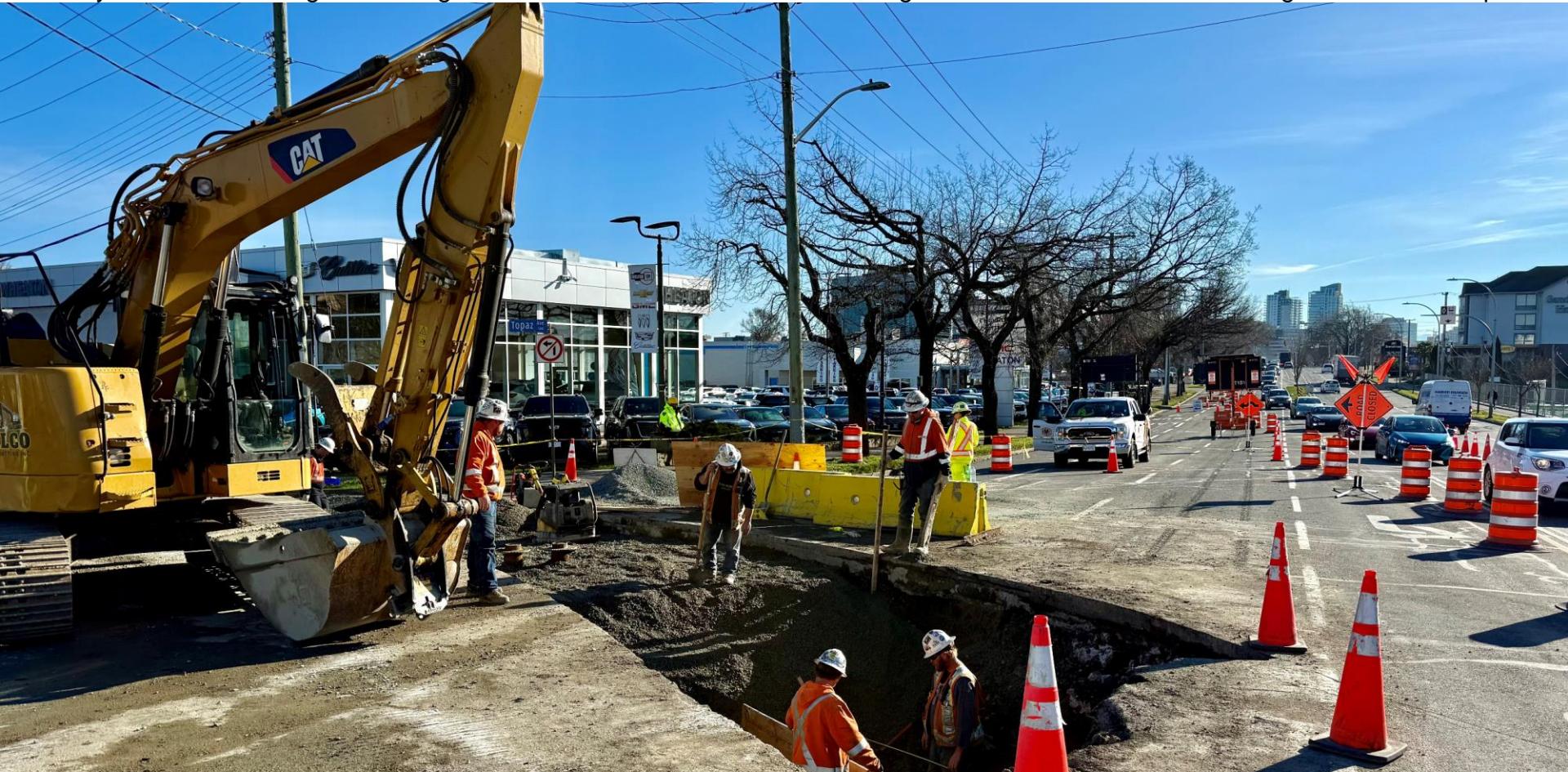
Construction photos: Douglas Street

January 19: Crews careful moving through a small rock outcrop, soil, and a large water line along Douglas Street.



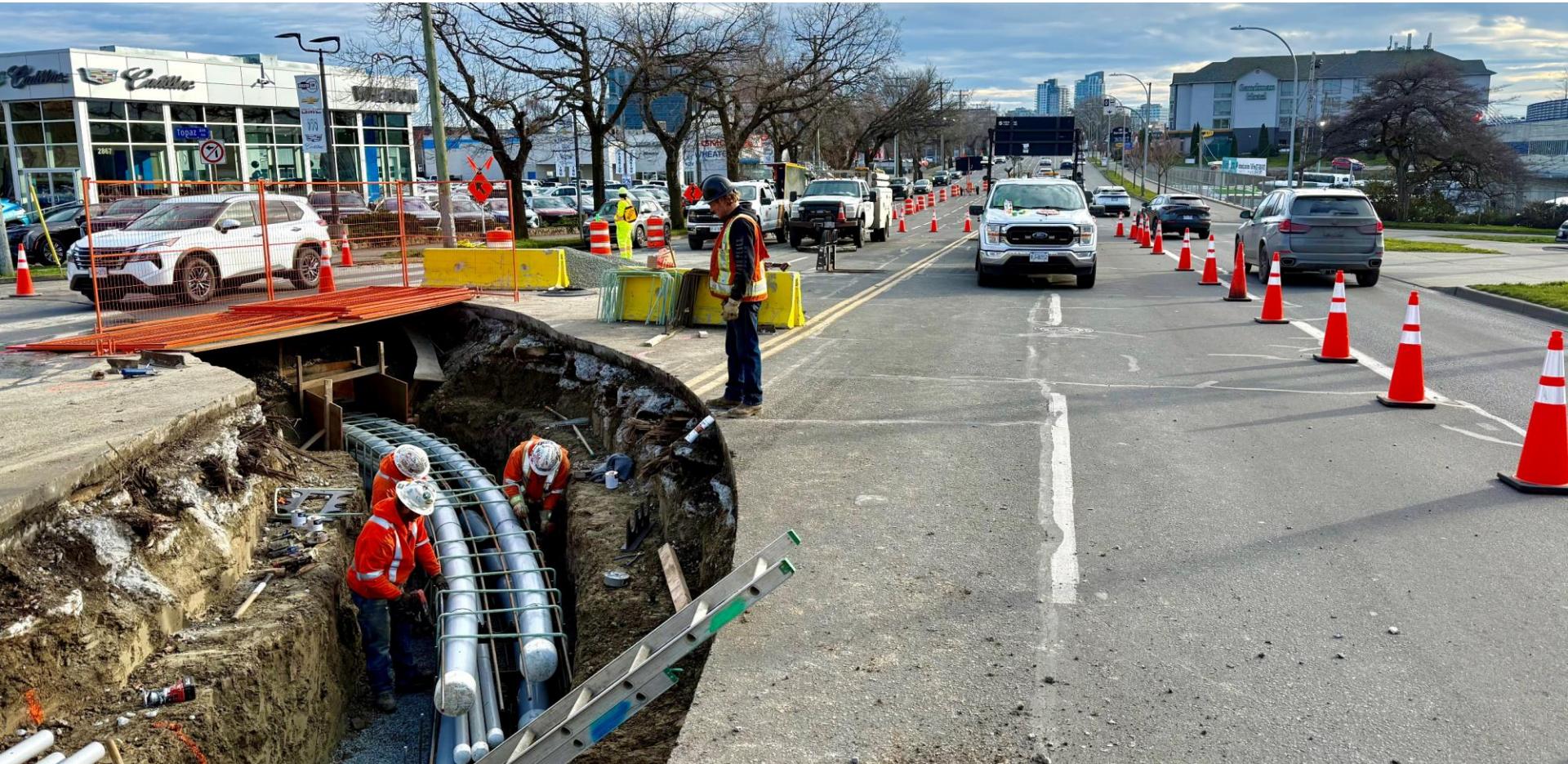
Construction photos: Douglas Street

January 21: Crews turning the underground duct bank into the middle of Douglas Street. One northbound Douglas Street lane open.



Construction photos: Douglas Street

January 26: Crews moved into the middle five lanes of Douglas Street and shifting traffic to the outer lanes.



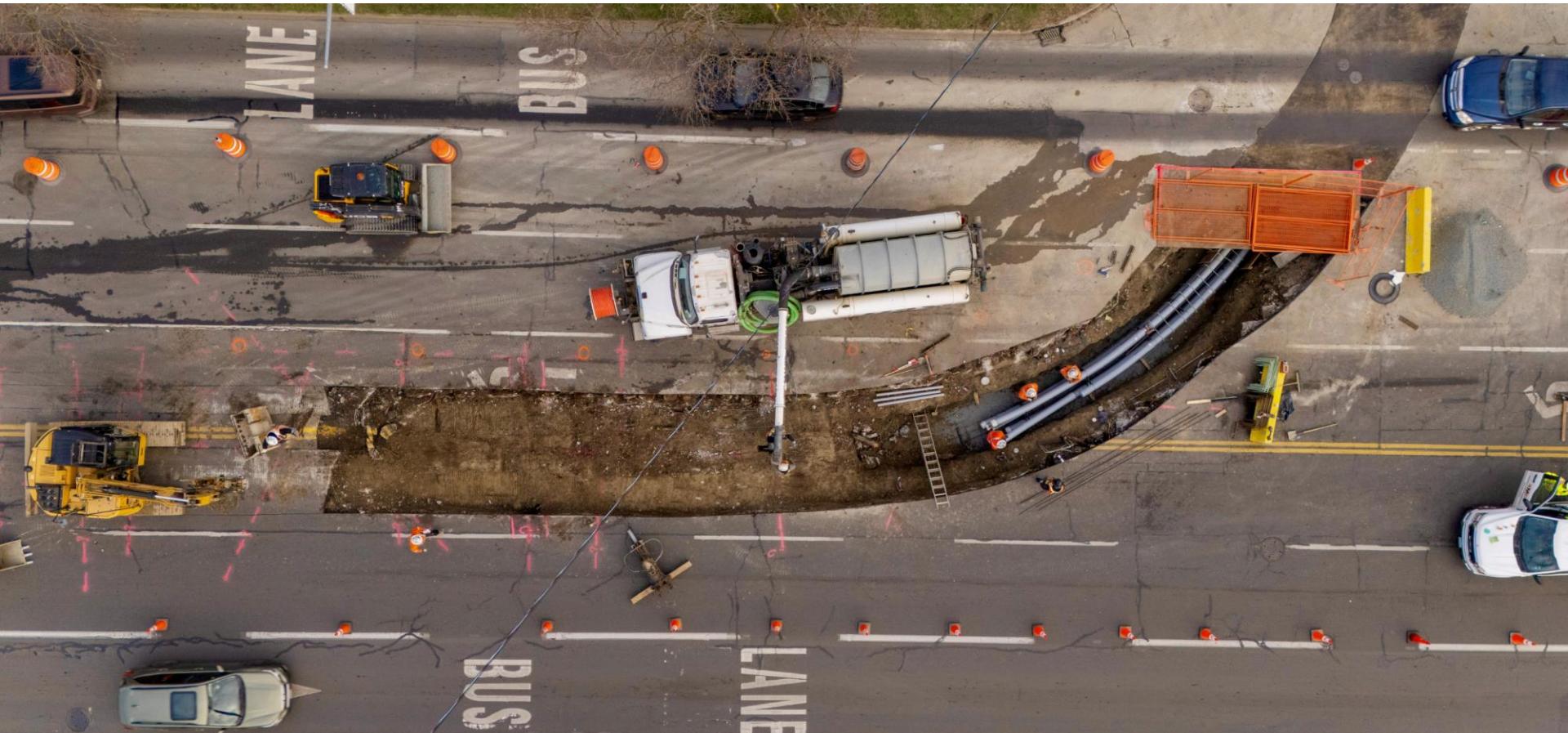
Construction photos: Douglas Street

January 26: Crews begin the second phase of the three phases of construction zones and traffic management to cross Douglas Street. One lane open in both directions.



Construction photos: Douglas Street

January 26: Duct bank work. The pink lines show the various underground utility crossings that are identified by the Hydrovac Truck in advance of the soil excavation.



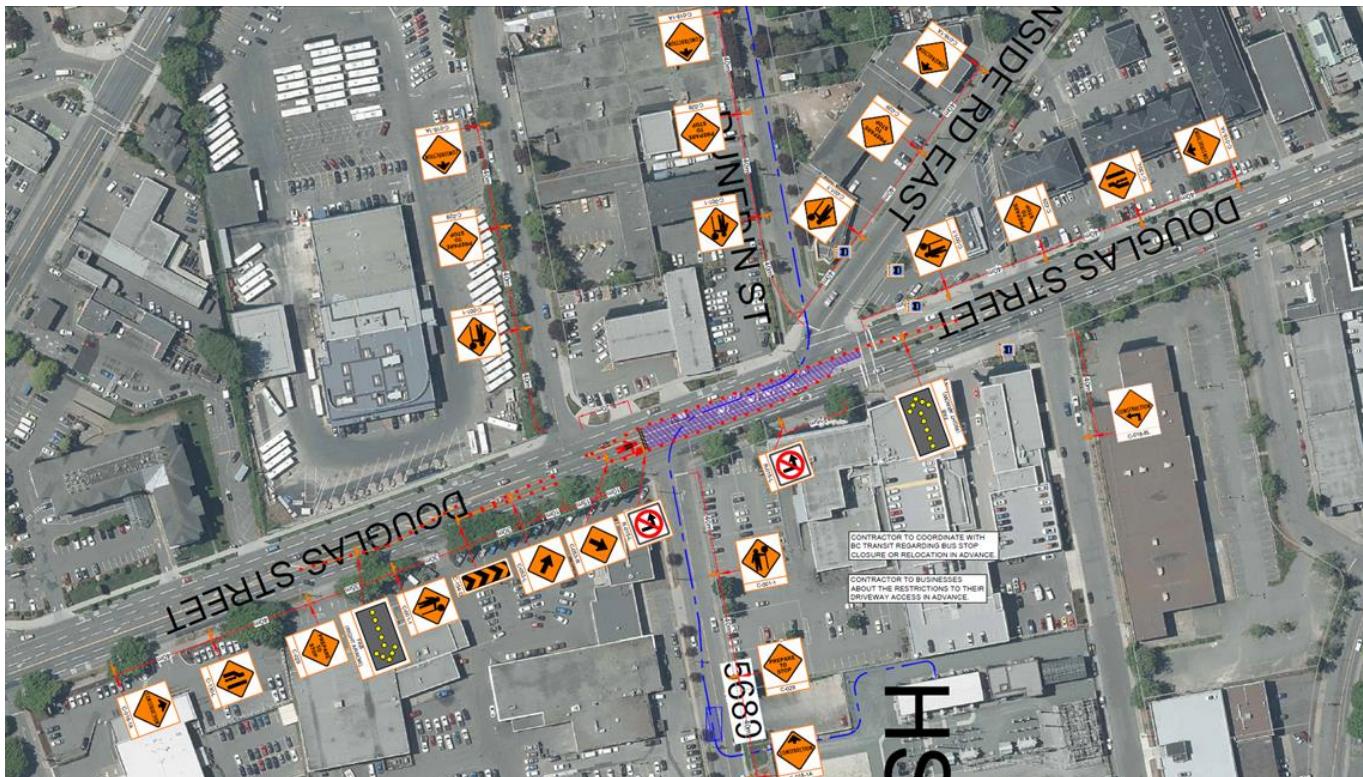
Traffic management plan: Douglas Street

Phase 2 is planned to be complete by January 30 and is taking place within the middle of Douglas Street. The blue hash-mark area is the duct bank work area.

One-two lanes open in both directions, though with some traffic control to move equipment.

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

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



Traffic management plan: Douglas Street

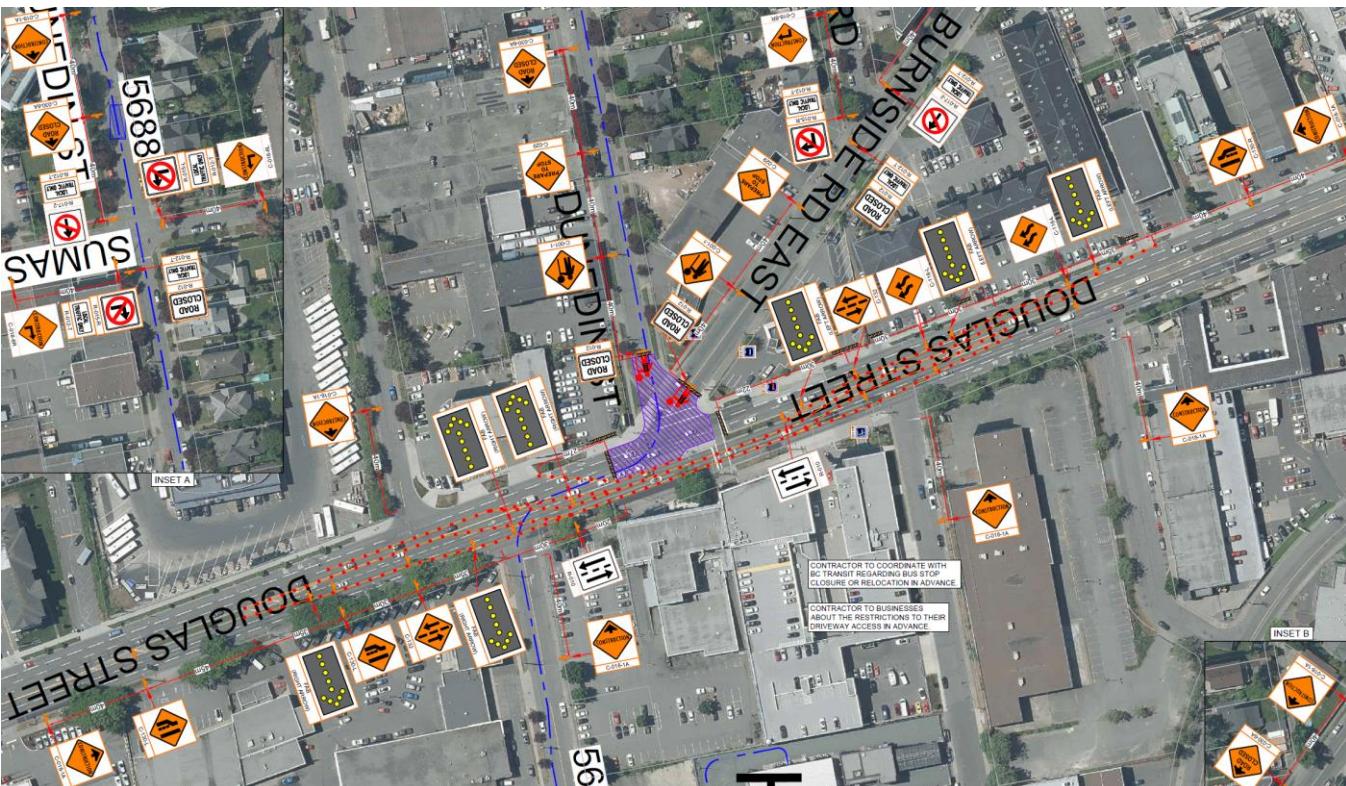
Phase 3 is planned to begin on February 2 and move across Douglas Street to Burnside Road and down Dunedin Street.

One lane open in both directions on Douglas Street. Traffic moved to the east side of Douglas Street.

Burnside Road traffic closed at Jutland Road except for local traffic.

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

Crews hope to be finished by February 13 subject to challenging underground conditions with extensive utilities to weave through.



Traffic management plan – Dunedin Street

600-block Dunedin Street

Work timeline:

- Duct bank work to begin in mid-February and will move westward, stopping on the western edge of the Sumas Street intersection.
- The work in the 600-block will be done in different construction sections.
- Repaving of the work area.
- Estimated completion of all construction and restoration work is end of March.

Traffic management:

- Closed except for local residents and business customers.
 - 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 for ~six weeks.
- Follow flaggers and detour signs.

