

Operational update

January 29, 2026

BC Hydro to begin final phase of cable duct bank work on Douglas Street

VICTORIA: BC Hydro crews will begin the third and final phase of cable duct bank crossing work on February 2, continuing construction along Douglas Street from Topaz Avenue to Burnside Road. This final stage, part of a series of critical infrastructure upgrades, will require ongoing lane closures and a full closure of Burnside Road for up to two weeks.

To help drivers plan ahead, electronic message boards and updated street signage will be installed throughout the area. Douglas Street may be reduced to a single lane in both directions, with efforts made to open an additional lane during peak travel periods. Motorists are encouraged to allow extra time, use caution and expect delays.

As this last phase proceeds, Burnside Road will be closed to through traffic between Douglas Street and Jutland Road, with access maintained only for local businesses. Local traffic will be able to reach lower Burnside Road from Jutland Road only, and traffic control personnel will be on site to assist. In addition, the east end of Dunedin Street will also be closed at Burnside Road, with access to the 600-block available from Sumas Street.

Work in the Douglas Street corridor began January 12 and is expected to be completed by February 13. Due to safety requirements and the extent of open excavation, construction cannot be performed at night.

This work supports the Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project, which will replace a corroded underground transmission cable installed in 1980. The new 230-kilovolt, oil-free, insulated cable will span 2.3 kilometres beneath city streets in Victoria and Esquimalt, with a portion crossing under the Gorge Waterway. The upgrade will improve system reliability, reduce seismic risks and support growing electricity demand.

BC Hydro continues to work closely with the City of Victoria and BC Transit, coordinating schedules and aligning traffic management plans. Our goal is to ensure the project is completed safely and responsibly and we thank the community for their patience and understanding as we undertake this critical work to keep the Greater Victoria power supply safe and reliable.

For more information and project updates, visit bchydro.com/victoriatoesquimalt.

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