

Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Community Construction Report #12

April 2026

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Project status

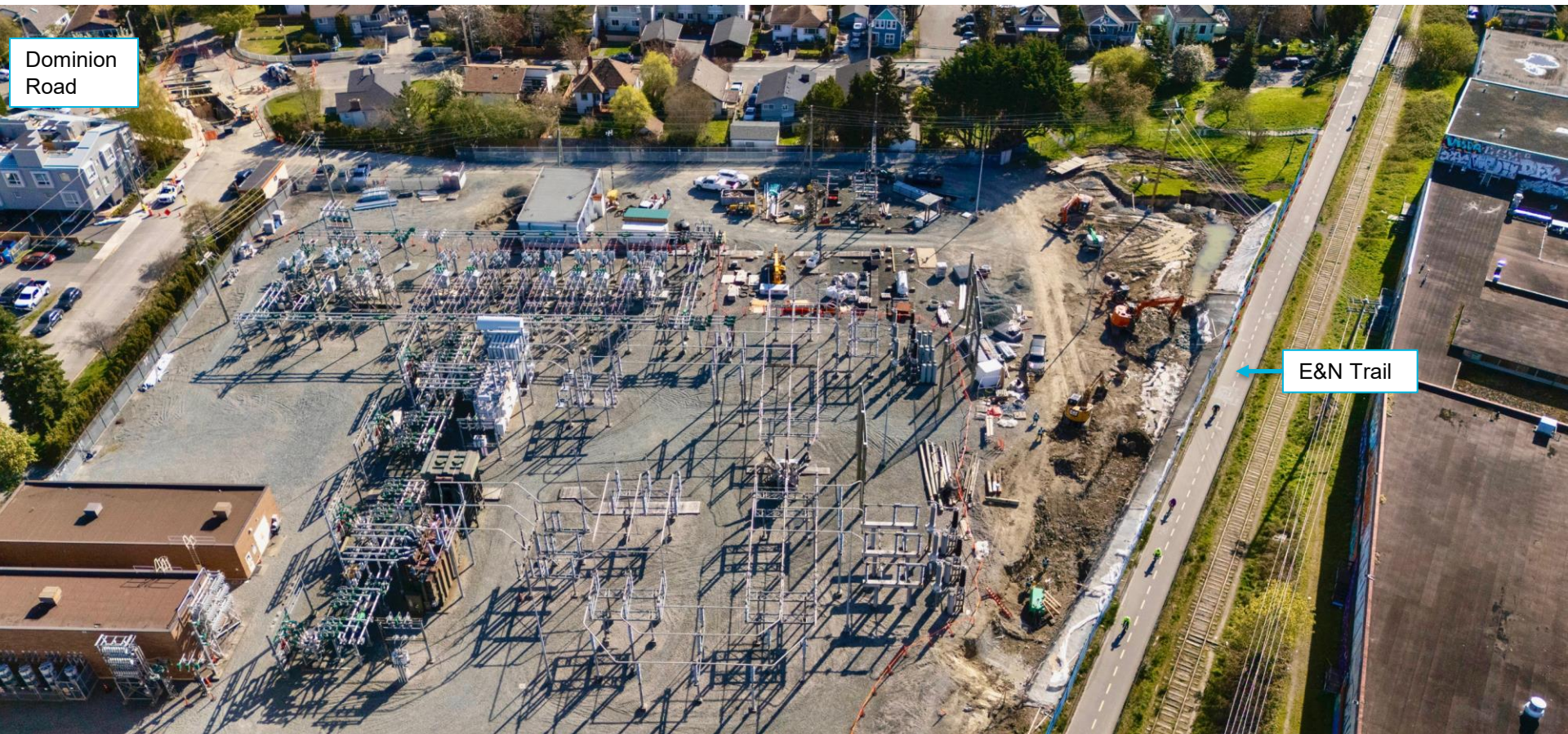
- Crews have been working in the Esquimalt Substation, Dominion Road intersection, Banfield Park, Viaduct Park, Dunedin Street, Topaz Avenue, and Horsey Substation.
- Esquimalt Substation and proximity to E&N Trail and Hereward Green Park: Ongoing work on the removal of the slope within the newly fenced area and the new cable duct bank placement.
- Hereward / Pine / Dominion / Devonshire intersection: Work commenced March 23 and the closure to Hereward, Pine and Dominion ended on April 21. Devonshire Road is planned to reopen around May 15.
- Banfield Park: Crews have completed the anchor block and duct bank work from the concrete vault to an area close to the foreshore.
- Viaduct Park: Duct bank from the concrete vault up to Gorge Road East is complete. Anchor block and duct bank work from the concrete vault to an area close to the edge of the Galloping Goose Trail is planned to be complete by mid-May.
- Dunedin Street and Topaz Avenue: Conduit duct bank proofing complete. Cable pulling being the week of May 4.
- Gorge Waterway marine work: Shallow burial work to connect the duct bank from Viaduct Park to Banfield Park will commence on June 1 to September 30, in coordination with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Crew will mobilize in late May. Details of the constructability plan and the Environmental Management Plan are provided in this report.

April 9 photo of duct bank work in Viaduct Park.



Construction photos: Esquimalt Substation

April 9: Excavation and wall shoring work beside the E&N Trail, on the right, for the expansion of the substation site for the new cable placement. The duct bank work at the Dominion Road intersection is at top left.



Dominion Road

E&N Trail

Construction photos: Dominion Intersection

April 9: Ongoing work on the underground duct bank, and the formwork for the vent vault that's in place for venting to the surface to maintain normal underground temperatures given the proximity of existing distribution duct bank.



Construction photos: Dominion Intersection

April 9: Trench for duct bank and vent vault installation at the Dominion (left), Pine (top), Hereward (right) and Devonshire intersection.



Construction photos: Dominion Intersection

April 9: View of the intersection work with Devonshire Road on the left, Pine Street on the right, and Dominion Road at the top.



Construction photos: Dominion Intersection

April 15: Placing concrete over the duct bank and the area around the base of the vent vault. Two pipes from the vent vault will come out onto the boulevard by Dominion Road.



City street duct bank installation – crews

March 27: BC Hydro Construction Services and Tilco Contracting (subcontractor) crews that worked, since early 2025, along City streets on the cable duct bank installation. Special thanks to our traffic control flaggers from KMF Traffic Solutions.



Construction photos: Banfield Park

April 9: Nearing completion of the anchor block and duct bank work on the water side of the concrete vault. The work was completed in mid-April. The next phase will be the foreshore and marine duct bank work.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

April 9: Duct bank work by Gorge Road East and the work area within Viaduct Park.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

April 9: Bird's-eye view of the duct bank work.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

April 9: Duct bank work near the Galloping Goose Trail leading up to Gorge Road East.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

April 9: Placing concrete over the conduit. The duct bank work was complete by April 10.



Construction photos: Viaduct Park

April 15: First week of work on the anchor block and duct bank. This work is identical to the anchor block work just completed on the water side of the concrete vault at Banfield Park (top left of photo). Underground water management in Viaduct Park is required.



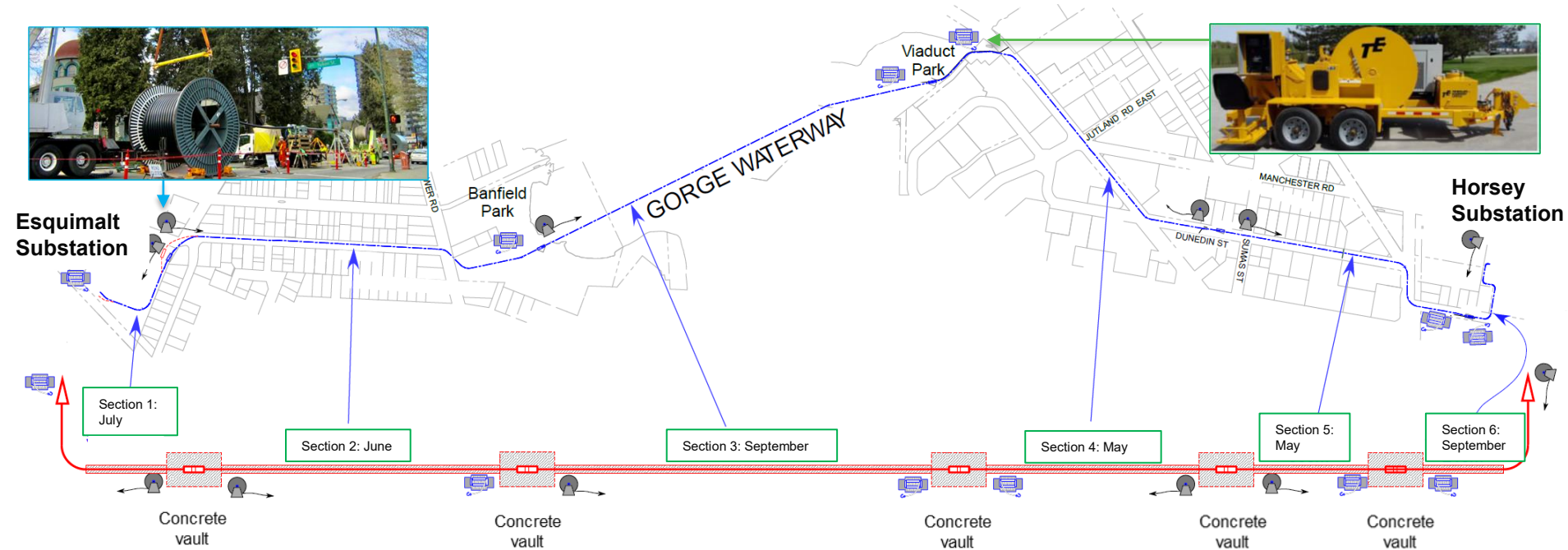
Construction photos: Viaduct Park

April 15: Work on the anchor block and duct bank adjacent to Galloping Goose Trail. The work is planned to be complete by mid-May.



Cable pulling through underground conduits: tentative schedule

There are six cable pulling sections shown below that will have a large site footprint for equipment.



There was a change in the sequencing to begin the first cable section with Section 4 and Section 5, with both to be done in May. Trucks and equipment will be placed at the concrete vaults on Dunedin Street, Topaz Avenue and in Viaduct Park. Each section may take up to two weeks to move in equipment, pull (photo top right) or reel in (photo top left) the cable.

Construction photos: cable pulling

April 9: Cable crews accessing the concrete vault on Topaz Avenue for the duct proofing to the vault on Dunedin Street to ensure the three underground conduits are clear and clean in advance of the cable pulling in early May.



Construction photos: cable pulling

April 15: Duct proofing from the vault on Dunedin Street to the vault in Viaduct Park. The cable pulling here begins May 4.



Dunedin Street - below are the numerous cable work activities:

- Proofing the conduits to ensure they are clear prior to cable pulling.
 - Dunedin Street vault to Topaz Avenue vault and then Dunedin Street vault to Viaduct Park vault
- Pull in electrical lines through underground conduit from a nearby power pole to provide vault power supply (lighting and pump installation), as well as rack work along the inner walls of the vault for the cables.
- Pulling in the three cables through the three conduits.
 - Dunedin Street vault to Topaz Avenue vault, and then Viaduct Park vault to Dunedin Street vault.
- Cable splicing to join the cables together within the Dunedin Street concrete vault.
- Communication fibre optic installation within smaller underground conduits that run parallel to the larger cable conduits. Work includes testing.
 - Viaduct Park vault to Dunedin Street vault, and then Dunedin Street vault to Topaz Avenue vault.

A letter was issued to residents and businesses on April 13 describing schedule and traffic management plans.

Gorge Waterway Marine Work

The project requested an amendment to the project's Fisheries Act Authorization (FAA) for the summer fisheries work window (July 1 to September 30) to start earlier and enable the challenging marine work to be completed before October. On April 9, Fisheries and Oceans Canada advised the project could begin as early as May 15 with various FAA conditions. Our current schedule has marine activities starting on June 1. Barges are planned to be mobilized to travel under the Selkirk Trestle, during a low tide window, between May 15 and 18.

Marine closure: Transport Canada (Canadian Navigable Waters Act) approved the up to ten-day marine closure that may take place in August. Dates to be confirmed.

Cable route – shallow burial

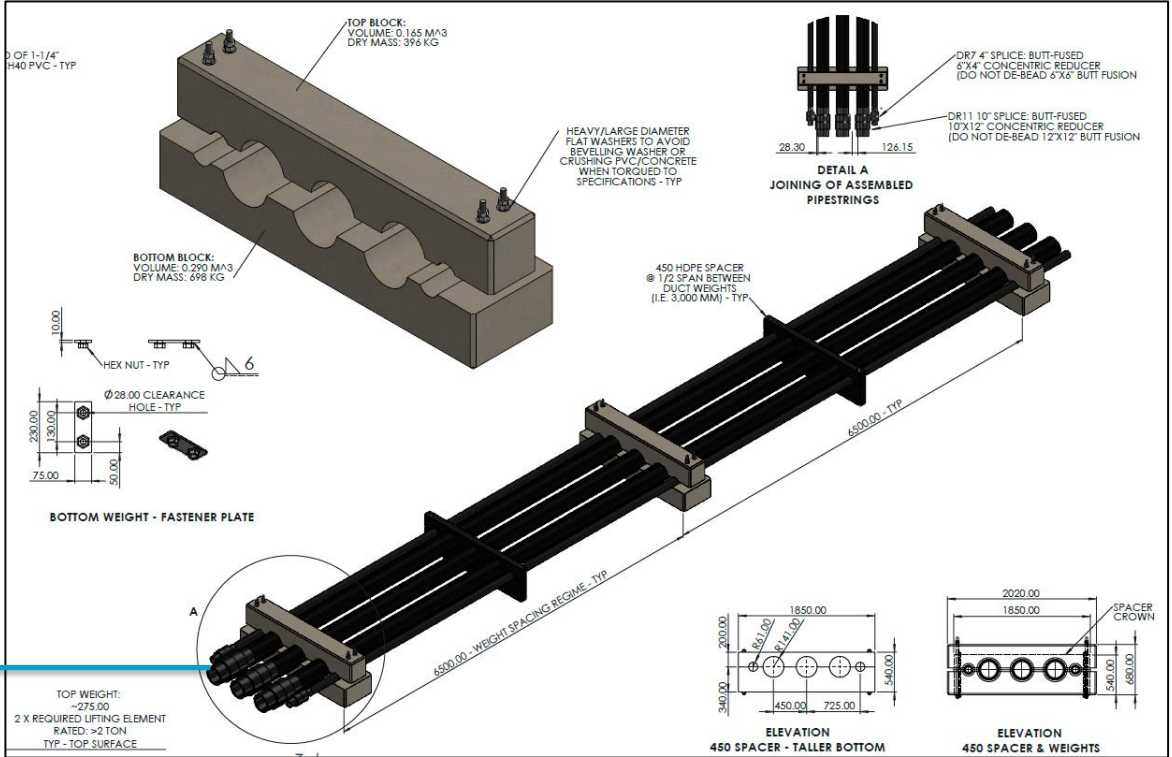


Gorge Waterway marine work: conduit assembly by Johnson Street Bridge

A few material barges and a crane barge will be in place to assemble the 220-metre-long conduit sections.



Johnson Street Bridge



The three sections will start to be assembled in May. Each section will be 220 metres long and will be towed to the holding area to the west of the Selkirk Trestle.

Gorge Waterway marine work: Tentative Plan

Marine works construction planned to take place June 1 to September 30.

A barge and crane will remove material and place it in smaller barges to be loaded and unloaded onto a large barge at the bottom right corner of the map. All barges will be sealed so no sediment material seeps into the Gorge Waterway.



A silt curtain will surround the barge and crane when removing the marine sediment.

A second barge and crane will place, using a global positioning system (GPS), rock material along the excavated trench to prevent or limit infilling from tidal action. The rock will be barged in from Rock Bay.

A marine traffic management plan is being developed.

Gorge Waterway marine work: Tentative Plan

~Ten-day full marine closure to place conduit across trench from foreshore to foreshore. Closure may take place in August.



Gorge Waterway marine work: Schedule

Tides may impact marine trench stability resulting in multiple sediment removals and rework.



Banfield Park Dock

~June 1 to September 30

Arbutus Pk

Banfield Park

Marine: ~June to August




Viaduct Park

Intertidal: ~June to August

Monday to Saturday

Marine closure likely to take place in August.

Gallopig Goose Trail and Banfield Park Trail: detours

-  Northbound detour direction arrows (southbound identical)
-  Trail closed
-  Closed construction zone

Trail detours are required during the marine construction work. We are working with the City of Victoria and the Capital Regional District on trail traffic management plans. The Gallopig Goose Trail detour at Viaduct Park will be identical to the trail detour that took place in late 2025. Banfield Park will have a new detour route for the project.

Detour awareness signage and a media notice will be issued two weeks prior to the trail detours planned to begin on June 1. Please follow the project website.



Gorge Waterway marine work: Environmental Management Plan

- Environmental Management Plan (EMP) includes conditions outlined in the DFO Fisheries Act Authorization.
- Marine Contractor to provide an Environmental Protection Plan and be supported full-time by a Qualified Environmental Professional for all in-water works.
- Follow-up marine eelgrass survey to be completed in advance of contractor mobilization.
- BC Hydro Environment team provides environmental oversight and implements archaeological monitoring as outlined in the Archaeological Management Plan, as appended to the EMP.
- BC Hydro to implement marine water quality monitoring program in support of City of Victoria and the public swimming area at the Banfield Park Dock.



April 15

