

HIGHWAY 1 COLQUITZ BRIDGES PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES May 6, 2025



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Highway 1-Colquitz River Bridges Widening project will widen and seismically retrofit both existing two-lane bridges over Burnside Road on Highway 1 in Victoria, as well as establish a dedicated bus-on-shoulder lane. Widening the Colquitz River bridges will make for a more reliable, efficient commute for south Islanders while protecting local waterways and ecosystems. The Project will provide environmental enhancements by planting native trees, removing invasive species and treating highway runoff via a rain garden before discharging into the Colquitz River. Pomerleau Inc was awarded the construction contract in March 2024 for the project.

PROJECT UPDATES

Construction activities continue to progress onsite, including ongoing widening work on the South and North Colquitz Bridges. The construction crew has continued works for the South Bridge deck work, including continued concrete works along the overhang parapet. At the North Bridge, works continued for the new Bent installation including pouring and curing concrete. The new bicycle railing along the South Bridge has also been installed. Paving was completed along the Highway 1 southbound shoulder.

1 MONTH LOOKAHEAD

The following construction activities are anticipated to begin/continue over the next month:

- Preparation for opening a third lane along the South Bridge.
- Ongoing work for the North Bridge B1 and B2 bents including continued curing of concrete.
- Ongoing deck work along the North and South Bridges.
- Lane closures, traffic control and temporary crosswalk along Burnside Road West.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT - POISON HEMLOCK ON THE PROJECT SITE

During construction, several Poison Hemlock plants have been found adjacent to the Project Site. Poison Hemlock is an introduced European weed which is toxic to both humans and livestock, affecting the central nervous system. It is important to prevent small-scale infestations of poison hemlock by periodically inspecting the area for newly established plants. Once identified, individual plants can be removed by hand pulling, hoeing, or spot application of a herbicide. Gloves need to be worn to minimize direct contact with the toxic sap. Plants cannot be burned because this may release toxins into the air.

The Provincial management goal for poison hemlock is regional containment and reduction in extent. MOTT retains a qualified contractor each year to treat infestations. Due to the risk to the public and wildlife, poison hemlock is a high priority species to manage in publicly accessed locations. Poison hemlock is easily mistaken for other species with white umbels in the carrot family, so accurate identification is important.



Figure 1: Poison Hemlock Presence on the Project Site

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Figure 2: Highway 1 Shoulder Paving



Figure 3: Tree Protection Fencing Installed Along Multi-Use Path



Figure 4: Installation of South Bridge Railing



Figure 5: Heating and Hoarding for Concrete Curing