

HIGHWAY 1 COLQUITZ BRIDGES PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES

March 9, 2026



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

February construction focused on bridge rehabilitation and maintaining safe traffic flow through the corridor. Traffic management and lane shifts remained in place to support ongoing works, along with continued environmental protection and site cleanup. On the South Bridge, crews advanced north parapet rehabilitation, including surface repairs, installation of reinforcement, and concrete placement and curing. Crews removed one of the North Bridge support structures and reinstated the nearby pathway slope.

1 MONTH LOOKAHEAD

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

- Replacing temporary concrete barriers along the east side of roadway and continuing sign installation
- Starting drainage fixes along roadway
- Pouring and finishing concrete for the sidewalk and the Burnside Road East curb and gutter
- South Bridge: removing temporary coverings and heaters, taking down formwork, continuing concrete curing, and setting up equipment for upcoming bridge deck work
- Grading within the median area in preparation for tree planting

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental protection measures remained in place throughout February, with ongoing monitoring along the Colquitz River. A third-party environmental audit was completed on February 20, 2026 and included in-stream water quality monitoring upstream, downstream, and adjacent to the Project area. Monitoring results confirmed the Project continues to meet turbidity requirements, and construction activities have not affected river water quality.

The Ministry has retained the Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) to complete restoration planting and enhancement works within the Colquitz River aquatic and riparian areas. The riparian enhancements provide critical habitat improvement, enhance water quality, and support long-term stream resilience. Planned works include removal of invasive species, replanting with native vegetation, construction of two boulder riffles and two pools, and placement of spawning gravels. This work is scheduled to begin this Spring and will continue through the Fall of 2026.



Figure 1: Looking north across the newly planted rain garden.

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Figure 2: Water quality monitoring location, looking downstream.



Figure 3: Dismantling of old bridge support, looking Northeast.

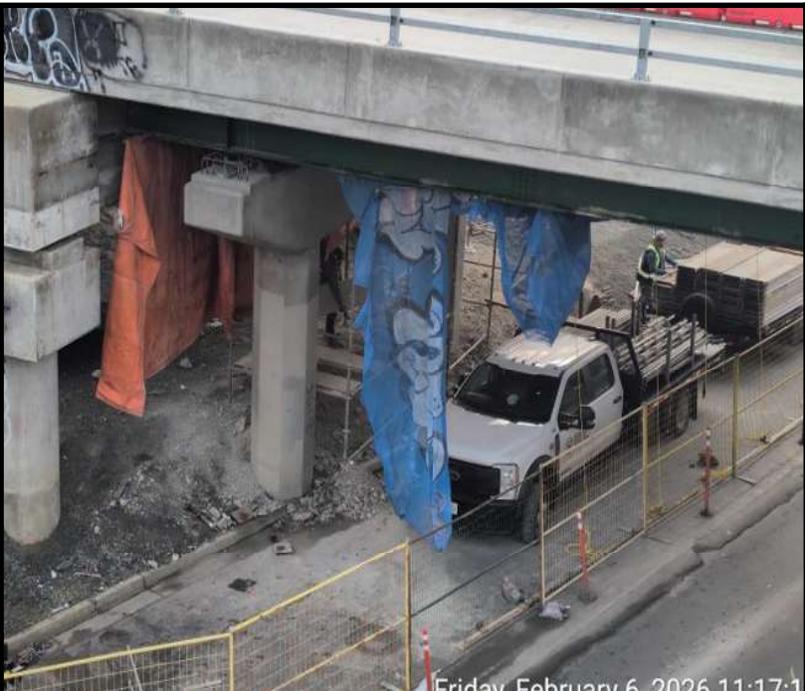


Figure 4: Dismantling of scaffolding prior to old bridge support removal, looking southeast.



Figure 5: North-facing view after bridge support removal and pathway slope reinstatement.