

Highway 779 (Fifth Meridian/48 Street)

UPDATES

11/14/2018: The Town of Stony Plain has received another update on Alberta Transportation's Highway 779 construction project: Much of the roadwork is finished for the current construction season. The grade widening between 47 Ave and 49 Ave was completed on November 1 and Willow Park Road South was reopened last Thursday. Line painting throughout the project is complete except for 47 Ave to 49 Ave, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, November 15.

The contractor will be working on the storm water pond across from John Paul II Catholic School for about another week, but all work will take place off the road surface or outside of the travel lanes. Once they are complete, the project will largely shut down for the season with only streetlight and traffic signal work taking place over the winter. This work will also take place primarily off the roadway, but will require the occasional short-term lane closure, which will be limited to non-peak hours. As the streetlights and traffic signals are completed, they will be commissioned and put into operation. The various utility companies will continue to work on relocating their utilities over the winter with the majority of work taking place early next year. The remaining road construction work will resume in early May 2019, depending on weather.

11/02/2018: Alberta Transportation (AT) has provided the Town with the following update: AT is paving the widening between 47 Ave and 49 Ave. The two south bound lanes are open to traffic with temporary lane markings and north bound lanes will be open also. The new signals at 49 Ave are fully operational. The line painting throughout the project limits has been completed with the exception of 47 Ave to 49 Ave, which will take place in the next few days depending on the weather. Once the line painting is complete the road will be fully open for the winter.

Work will continue off the road on the storm line, between Willow Park Road and Hwy 628 (79 Ave), and the storm pond, south of 57 Ave for another week or two. The sharp shoulders are in the process of being sloped to make them safe for the winter. This work will continue for the next few days so that all of the sharp shoulders are gone. Clean up work, delineator and sign installation will happen early next week.

The streetlight installation along the east side of 48 Street and the traffic signal installation work will continue over the winter with any lane closures or road impacts kept to a minimum and only during non-peak hours. The street lights and signals will be commissioned as they are completed and the old streetlights and signals will be removed once the new ones are operational.

10/25/2018: The traffic signals and streetlight at 49 Ave are ready to be activated. The signals at 55 Ave can be activated as long as the signal placement matches lane configuration.

10/22/2018: The Town of Stony Plain has been informed widening on the east side of the Highway at 49th Ave has begun. A temporary gravel sidewalk will be built on the west side before the existing sidewalk on the east side is removed.

Alberta Transportation hopes to have the full widening structure between 49th Ave and 47th Ave constructed and paved this year. Once that is complete, a decision will be made about the possibility of the addition of concrete curb and gutter this year. If the weather does not cooperate, that work will take place during the second year of the construction project.

09/27/2018: The Town of Stony Plain has received another update on the progress of Highway 779 construction: Grade widening between 47th Ave and 49th Ave cannot be done until CN has finished the railway twinning on 49th Ave. If widening cannot be completed by the end of the construction season, plans will be put into place for traffic control accommodations over the winter.

Fortis has completed relocation of overhead power, removed poles, and switched power over to underground lines. All lanes north of 55th Ave have been reopened and swept. Once the stormline trench has been paved, traffic will be flipped to the south bound lane to allow for stubbing out of catch basins on the east side of the highway. All signs, including regulatory signs, will be reinstalled before winter shutdown.

09/20/2018: Fortis is on schedule to complete relocation of overhead power this week. Shaw will also be on site this week completing relocates.

09/10/2018: Grade widening areas south of Highway 628 have been paved. Overhead streetlights on the south end will be installed soon, starting with the east side and followed by the left. Shaw will be locating their lines soon. Once that is done, the lines will be relocated. Fortis was testing mainline cables last week and will start converting services this week.

Traffic accommodations are in place to help with the back to school traffic increase and are working well. Wells Construction is currently flagging at the end of the school day to help busses get into the Highway quickly and efficiently. They are looking into a long-term solution to help the school handle traffic accommodations safely without having to rely on Wells.

09/06/2018: The Town of Stony Plain has received an update on the Hwy 779 construction. The following work has been completed:

- The St. John Paul II parking lot has been paved and restored;
- Grade widening areas south of Hwy 628 have been paved;

- Traffic signals at 49th Ave have been finished and will be activated once the power to them is turned on.

The 52nd Ave access is now closed. The 52nd Ave traffic signals will be completed, followed by the installation of streetlights south of Hwy 628. Once the lights are finished, the installation of traffic signals at 55th Ave will begin.

Fortis Alberta remains on schedule to have powerlines relocated by mid-September. Shaw plans to have their line relocation complete by late September. The Shaw vaults at 52nd Ave and 57th Ave will be relocated. Wells Construction anticipates completing all work south of Hwy 628 by the end of this construction season.

08/31/2018: The Town has been informed the parking lot at St. John Paul II school is scheduled to be paved tomorrow (Sept. 1). The parking lot lines and curbs will be restored before the first day of school on Sept. 4. The traffic accommodations currently in place in front of the school (one lane of traffic in either direction) will remain in place until late next week.

The remaining traffic accommodations will be in place for a while. The contractor will start working on the catch basins and manholes on the east side of 48th Street after the Labour Day long weekend. Contractors will also complete and switch over the traffic signals at both 49th Ave and 52nd Ave in the next couple of weeks. The existing signals will be taken down once the new signals are operational.

The 52nd Ave access to 48th Street is currently closed but access to The Red and FasGas have been maintained. Once the new catch basins and manholes have been installed, surface paving will be restored and access reopened. This is expected to happen next week.

Fortis Alberta is expecting to dig to the underground power lines and begin taking down poles in mid-September. Once the poles are out of the way, the contractor will begin installing the new overhead streetlights south of Hwy 628 and working on the new storm line between St. John Paul II and Hwy 628.

Contractors will be completing paving on the section of Hwy 628 between Willow Way and the Hwy 779 intersection. Grade widening in this area will be completed this year but final paving and curb replacement may not be finished until next year. Grade widening between 47th Ave and 49th Ave will begin late September. The road will be in place but curb and gutter may not be installed until next year.

08/22/2018: Alberta Transportation (AT) has provided the Town of Stony Plain with an update on the Hwy 779/48 Street construction project. The construction zone begins approximately 1 km south of Hwy 628/79 Ave and runs north to 47 Ave. The current speed limit in this area is 50km/hour. Grade widening is taking place from the southern limits of the construction area to 57 Ave. This stretch of road has sharp shoulders and delineator posts are in place along the edges.

The roadway from 79 Ave to 50 Ave is down to one lane in each direction (north and south) as work is done on the other two lanes. Currently, both directions are running on the southbound lanes from north of 52 Ave to 55 Ave. Once traffic reaches 55 Ave, it shifts to the northbound lanes until 57 Ave where it shifts back to southbound until it reaches Hwy 628/79 Ave. Access to 57 west is now open. Access to 54 Ave east is currently closed but AT intends to reopen it early next week. Construction of underground drainage facilities has now shifted to the east side of the road.

There is currently only one open access to the St. John Paul II parking lot and limited space available. AT is working towards having the parking lot surface restored and both accesses open by September 3. AT expects to have the first stage of paving on the widening from 79 Ave south and the area between 47 Ave and 49 Ave complete by the end of the construction season.

07/26/2018: Alberta Transportation has temporarily closed the intersection at 57 Avenue. Detours are posted.

06/13/2018: The Town of Stony Plain has received an update on the Highway 779 construction project from Alberta Transportation. Weather permitting; work will begin on June 18th. This will be a 2-year project. The Contractor has scheduled to start at the south end and work north. Simultaneously, there will be underground sewer installation starting near St. John Paul II School working first to the north, then to the south.

The entire project stretches from the Town's south boundary (about 1 km south of the Hwy 628 intersection) to 47th Ave. It's the Contractor's hope to complete the road improvements from the Town's south boundary to 55th Ave in year one, and from 55th Ave to 47th Ave in year two. The road will remain open at all times.

Installation of new street lights throughout the project limits, as well as six sets of traffic signals will occur as the schedule permits with as many lights and new signals as possible being installed in the first year of construction. New signals will be installed in the following locations:

- Hwy 628
- Willow Park Road (Willow Park north entrance)
- 57th Ave (The Glens entrance)
- 55th Ave
- 52nd Ave
- 49th Ave

Trails improvements will be as follows:

- A 2.3 km multi-use trail will extend along the Hwy 779 corridor from 47 Ave to Hwy 628.

- On the west side of Hwy 779 at 47 Ave, the trail will continue south where it ties into an existing trail between 55 Ave and 57 Ave.
- The trail then continues on the east side of Hwy 779 from 57th to the Hwy 628 intersection.
- There will be marked crossings where the trail crosses the highway.

Sidewalk improvements will be as follows:

- On the east side of Highway 779, there will be a 1.3km sidewalk from 47th Ave to 57th Ave, except between 55th Ave and 57th Ave where access for driveways are located.
- Trails and sidewalks will be constructed at the same time as road improvements moving south to north.

Year 1 – Town South Boundary Limits to 55th Ave

- The project will start with grading and widening south of Hwy 628.
- While school is out, work in front of St. John Paul II School is planned:
 - School access and the parking lot may change during construction. Alberta Transportation is working with the school on coordination. The parking lot will be restored once complete.
 - A storm water management pond will be constructed on lands on the west side of Hwy 779 across from the school.
- Widening with raised divided concrete median from Willow Park Road (north) to 55th Ave.
- Willow Park Road (north) to Hwy 628 will be developed to undivided two lanes with dedicated turn lanes at intersections.

Year 2 – 55th Ave to 47th Ave

- Grading and widening;
- Enhanced pedestrian crossings and possible relocations;
- Three rear alleys north of 55 Ave will be upgraded and paved;
- Landscaping;
- Widening with a raised divided concrete median will continue from 55th Ave to 47th Ave; and
- Realignment of 52nd Ave.

The contractor's schedule is weather dependent. If there is work currently planned for the second year of construction that can be advanced, it will be. The contractor and Alberta Transportation are currently coordinating with CN Rail to ensure the track twinning can occur with no interruptions from the road project. Scheduled closures may be required by CN Rail in

order to facilitate their work. Please stay up to date on all AT construction projects on www.511.alberta.ca and keep checking this page.

04/23/2018: Town Council accepted an update from the Government of Alberta on the scope and estimated start date for construction on Highway 779.