

NEWS RELEASE

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Phase one of Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge rehabilitation nearing completion

The Sid Buckwold Bridge remains on schedule to fully open to traffic in October. The first of a two-year complete bridge rehabilitation began in April and includes deck repairs, new asphalt, new barriers, walkway widening, a new drainage system and resurfacing of the Idylwyld Drive ramps over 19th Street.

“Work is progressing on time and remains on budget,” says Todd Grabowski, Acting Engineering Manager, Major Projects & Preservation. “Construction crews have removed approximately 1,200 tonnes of asphalt from the southbound lanes. New concrete has been installed on the bridge deck, new barriers are being built and they are about to begin work on strengthening the bridge piers. Once complete, the entire bridge will reopen.

In the spring of 2020, the northbound lanes heading into downtown, including the 1st Avenue ramp, will close and traffic will flip to the other side. The bridge walkway will also close so work can begin on widening it and installing a taller barrier which will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Grabowski says the reconstruction as well as the removal of pigeon feces from the bridge cavities is significantly prolonging the life of the 53-year-old bridge. “Crews removed nearly 1.4 million pounds of pigeon feces, which equates to approximately 360 medium sized cars parked on the bridge. That eliminates a significant amount of additional weight.”

The City’s Deck Testing Program identified the need for rehabilitation to ensure the bridge remains safe, serviceable and structurally sound for years to come. Work on all three structures of the bridge was scheduled over two years in order to prevent a full closure, which would have had a significant impact on traffic, residents and businesses.

For more information about the Sid Buckwold Bridge and the rehabilitation project, visit Saskatoon.ca/sidbuckwold.