



## **Low Level Bridge Lane Closure and Repair**

Date: January 09, 2020

Tracking number: 2020-02

Attention: Mayor, Council, ELT

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### **Communications Issue:**

Inspection of the Low Level Bridge was conducted over the last few months. On January 8, 2020, the consultant doing the second level assessment notified the City of the heightened risk of a crack in the north pier of the northbound portion of the bridge. The inside lane of the northbound section has been closed to ensure there is no additional pressure on the cracked area. Repairs will be conducted over the next four weeks to allow for regular access to all lanes of the bridge.

### **City of Edmonton Position:**

Keep the inside lane of the northbound bridge closed to allow crews access to the pier to perform repairs and alleviate loads. The work is expected to take up to four weeks and may require full closure of the bridge during off-peak hours. The Low Level Bridges (north and southbound) are also planned for renewal within this budget cycle (renewal construction scheduled to commence starting in 2022).

### **Key Messages:**

- The Low Level Bridges are inspected annually by our staff of fully qualified bridge inspectors.
- We are repairing a crack in the north pier on the northbound bridge, that was caught early thanks to regular inspections and maintenance.
- Identifying this repair before it became a major issue means our process works and regular inspections on the bridge are effective.
- We have a rigorous inspection and maintenance program for all of our bridges to ensure they are safe and accessible, including preventative maintenance on a yearly basis. Our inspections and maintenance go above and beyond the legislated requirements of the province.
- As a safety precaution, we have closed down the lane that passes over the area for about four weeks until repairs are complete.
  - The sidewalk will remain open, and bus routes will not be affected. However, we can anticipate there may be delays during peak hours.
- In parallel with the maintenance work, an in depth assessment is also continuing in preparation for the upcoming renewal work scheduled for this budget cycle.
- The City of Edmonton recognizes that the Low Level Bridges are a vital part of our transportation infrastructure.
- Considering the bridges have been maintained safely for so long is a testament to how well the City has historically looked after this bridge.



- The City's priority is to preserve these bridges with renewal construction scheduled for 2022.

**Approach:**

A Traffic Disruption Notice and tweet have informed the public of the lane closure. We have also set up Dynamic Message Boards south of the bridge to alert motorists in real time for the duration of the work.

As media inquiries come in we will direct them to the City Operations and IIS contacts as appropriate.

**Background:**

Media coverage on the Low Level Bridge from August 2019 has focused on its age and concerns of safety, especially with renewal scheduled to occur within this budget cycle. Public comments through letters to media and social media during that same time site dissatisfaction with the bridge's look. The maintenance will likely allow people to again questions on the safety of the bridge and questions on whether renewal efforts could be moved up in the City's construction schedule.

**Media coverage:**

None yet.

**Designated Administration Spokesperson:**

Operational maintenance & annual inspections: Cheryl Fereday, General Supervisor, Bridges, Structures & Open Space Maintenance 780-944-0447

Renewal assessment, renewal plans & repair management: Sam El Mohtar, Transportation Infrastructure Delivery 780-944-7704

**Media Contact:**

Derek Logan, Communications Advisor - City Operations  
780-508-9215 (office); [REDACTED] s. 17(1) (cell)

Adriana Amelio, Communications Advisor - Integrated Infrastructure Services  
780-496-2821 (office); [REDACTED] s. 17(1) (cell)