

BLACK GOLD DRIVE | ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Grant MacEwan Boulevard to 50th Street | 2019-2020

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a road reconstruction?

The road is excavated down to the base (gravel) or sub-grade (clay) layer depending on its condition. The sub-grade is re-stabilized and the base and surface are replaced. Curb and gutter are also replaced, if required.

The road doesn't look like it needs repairs in some areas, why is this happening now?

Although Black Gold Drive may appear to have minimal damage on the surface, the layers below require work. As roads age, weather and the weight of traffic wear on its structure, and the layers begin to degrade.

Completing construction now proactively addresses repairs before there are larger safety issues and extends the overall lifespan of the road.

Why isn't the road being twinned?

Black Gold Drive's current traffic capacity is not high enough nor will its capacity increase enough in the future to warrant twinning the road. However, the addition of left hand turning lanes at intersections will promote better traffic flow and ease congestion during peak travel times. There are also space restrictions underneath the QEII overpass that limit expansion.

Why isn't the 50th Street intersection included?

The 50th Street intersection is a future project. We are in the process of coordinating the necessary approvals for this work with Canadian Pacific Railway.

How will my commute change?

Two-way traffic will be maintained through most of construction, but some areas will be reduced to a single lane. Residents should plan for slightly slower travel time given reduced lane sizes and reduced speed limits. Updates will be provided when possible so residents can plan accordingly.

Why is this project taking two years?

A significant amount of road is being repaired (nearly 2.5 km). Construction will happen in smaller phases rather than one large stretch to minimize disruptions to traffic, which requires time to complete.

How will residents living along Black Gold Drive be impacted?

Aside from potential traffic impacts, residents along Black Gold Drive may also notice increased noise levels during the day when construction occurs (Community Standards Bylaw, Section 18: construction may occur between 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. weekends).

What about areas with a single access point off of Black Gold Drive?

Local traffic will be provided single-lane access in areas where there is only one access point on Black Gold Drive. Lanes will only be reduced when construction impacts the immediate area, and a flag person will direct traffic. Residents in these areas will be provided notification in advance of construction.

Have you considered impacts to schools and school bus routes?

Yes, construction from Alton Drive to Grant MacEwan Boulevard has been scheduled for summer months, outside of the school year.

Will this impact Aileen Faller park?

Parking in the lot on Black Gold Drive will be limited during construction; however, St. Benedict and Leduc Estates School parking lots are available outside of school hours. The toboggan hill will be reshaped to direct toboggans further away from the road, and multiway west of the hill will be rerouted. Fencing and additional landscaping will define new tobogganing areas. Some trees and shrubs will be removed, but once construction is complete, landscaping will plant new greenery.

Will this have any impact on Fred Johns Park?

Access to Fred Johns Park will be maintained throughout construction.

Will there be any multiway detours?

Yes, the contractor will be sequencing work and multiway detours may change throughout construction. All detours will be clearly marked.