Bridge Construction Update –
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Dundas Street Bridge could be down to one lane right through winter

Contract delays, scheduling conflicts with CPKC Rail and concerns about the safety of the bridge itself have stalled the project, which was supposed to begin in May



Cara Nickerson
about 5 hours ago

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Demolition on the Canadian Pacific Kansas City bridge on Dundas Street in Waterdown likely won't start until mid-August, meaning the bridge could be down to one lane until next spring.

Ed English, manager of construction with the City of Hamilton, said the biggest setback the project has faced is getting a contract started and working with CP Rail on the schedule, but added that the bridge needed more preparation work than initially thought.

"We did a scope of the underside of the north side of the bridge, which is where all the traffic will be when they demolish the south side. When they did that, they found that there was a little more work that needed to be done, so that's going to take them into... mid-August," English said.

That's when traffic will go down to one-lane travelling in one direction, with the westbound lane remaining open. No decision has been made on whether the lane will switch directions to match rush hour traffic, which some residents and business owners have requested. The bridge now has a new maximum weight limit of 15

tonnes, as the north side of the bridge will take all of the traffic through months of construction.

English said the project is behind schedule, but the city expects it will still be completed by fall 2026, with plans to have construction continue throughout the winter season.

While the timeline has changed for the project, English said the city still anticipates it will be completed within its original budget of $10.5 million.

"We have a small contingency built into that. Generally there are things that come up that may need additional funding, which we would go to the contingency for," he explained.

He said it may "seem silly to repair a bridge that's going to be be torn down, but it has to be made safe to put all the traffic on the north side of the bridge."

But just because the demolition hasn't begun, English said that doesn't mean the bridge isn't a construction site. There are crews working beneath the bridge.

While the demolition may be over a month away, the detour route around the construction site has already been set up, including two new temporary street lights at Robson Road and Boulding Avenue to manage traffic flow on Parkside Drive.

"We started the detour route so that people who would have the ability to take the detour rather than going through a construction zone," English said.

He said crews may need to close Dundas Street East down to one lane in the coming weeks to move large equipment or materials. The detour and construction will likely lead to heavier congestion during morning and evening rush hour.

"Delays during peak hours are expected. There were consistently delays during peak hours, even pre-construction. It's always been bad through Waterdown," he said.

Bypass update

English confirmed that work on the long-awaited Waterdown Bypass will likely not begin until 2027. The project has been at a standstill for over a year, as ongoing talks with the Haudenosaunee Development Institute continue.

English said the city would like to focus on completing the major demolition project planned for the Dundas Street Bridge before it starts work on the bypass.

"We weren't going to have work on the bypass happening while there was work on the bridge," he said.

The bridge itself, he noted, is over 50 years old and is in rough shape. He said the city did repairs in 2021, but its time for a full replacement. At past city meetings, staff said the new bridge will hold for about 100 years, while construction will take around two years.

"We did everything that we could with the design and with the contract to keep the bridge open rather than have the bridge completely taken out and have the neighbourhood completely without the ability to cross over Highway 5," English said.




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