

## **Departure Bay Pump Station and Forcemain Project: Traffic Management Strategy and Construction Schedule Update**

The next steps of the Departure Bay Pump Station and Forcemain project, which includes the traffic management strategy and construction timeline for Hammond Bay Road, are being finalized. A unidirectional traffic strategy will be used to help reduce delays and keep traffic moving. Traffic improvements and utility replacements on Hammond Bay Road are expected to begin in mid to late 2026, with implementation of the unidirectional traffic flow pattern anticipated to begin in early 2027.

### **Traffic Management Strategy Update**

After months of assessment and consultation with key groups, a unidirectional traffic pattern (one-way traffic) will be used during most of the construction on Hammond Bay Road as it has both traffic flow and project management advantages over single-lane alternating traffic.

Unidirectional traffic means that drivers will only be able to drive the full length of Hammond Bay Road when heading clockwise (southbound) from McGuffie Road to Departure Bay. Northbound traffic will be directed to a bypass route via Departure Bay Road/Uplands/Rutherford.

### **Key Traffic Management Strategy Details**

- One-way traffic flow will begin in early 2027 – more information will be shared closer to this date.
- Traffic improvements will be made along the bypass route, including upgrades at pedestrian crossings, signal modifications and intersection improvements at Vanderneuk and Rutherford, and Uplands and Departure Bay Road.
- Two-way traffic will be available between construction segments.
- Emergency services will continue to have two-way access, supported through communication protocols between dispatch and construction crews

### **Construction Schedule Update**

- Construction of proactive traffic improvements off Hammond Bay Road will begin in mid-late 2026. Pre-construction ground investigations and smaller utility upgrades will continue along Hammond Bay Road, requiring intermittent single-lane alternating traffic.
- Large scale forcemain construction on Hammond Bay Road will begin early 2027. Water main replacements using small scale single lane alternating traffic will begin late 2026. More details about when one-way traffic will be implemented in the coming months will be shared when available.

## **About the Project**

The wastewater expansion project includes the renewal of the pump station at Departure Bay as well as the installation of four kilometres of new sewer forcemain along Hammond Bay Road. Upgrading this portion of the wastewater system is critically important as the current infrastructure is over 50 years old and currently moves 75 per cent of the City of Nanaimo's wastewater to the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre for treatment. It's expected to take four years to complete, finishing in 2031.

For more information about the Departure Bay Pump Station and Forcemain Project, post questions, review the latest news and sign up to get updates, visit [getinvolved.rdn.ca/DB-sewer-project](http://getinvolved.rdn.ca/DB-sewer-project).

To get traffic updates on this project once they begin, sign up for the City of Nanaimo's weekly newsletter at [nanaimo.ca/your-government/news-events/newsletter/my-nanaimo-this-week](http://nanaimo.ca/your-government/news-events/newsletter/my-nanaimo-this-week).

## **Quotes**

"We're pleased to share this important update on this essential infrastructure project that will help ensure wastewater services meet our community's needs now and into the future. On behalf of the Regional District of Nanaimo, thank you to residents for their patience and interest as the project team finalizes the traffic management plan and key next steps."

Stuart McLean, Board Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo

"We recognize that a four-year construction project will test the patience of many residents, and we sincerely appreciate the community's understanding as this important work moves forward. While the impacts will be challenging, upgrading aging infrastructure is not something we can afford to delay. With continued population growth and increasing demand on our systems, projects like this are essential to protecting public health and supporting Nanaimo's future."

Leonard Krog, Mayor, City of Nanaimo

-30-

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