

NEWS RELEASE

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Utility replacement, streetscape improvements planned for Third Street corridor

Upgrades focused on asset renewal, safety and accessibility for all road users

Summary

The City of Nanaimo is undertaking a major infrastructure renewal project along the Third Street-Fitzwilliam corridor.

The project focuses on replacing aging watermains and sanitary sewers along with adding in a rain garden next to the Cat Stream and other stormwater features. Other planned improvements include raised cycling lanes and sidewalks on both sides of Third Street and safer intersections for pedestrians at Howard Avenue and Watfield and Georgia Avenue. Intersection upgrades will improve safety and accessibility, particularly for those with mobility challenges. A new pedestrian signal will be installed at Howard Avenue, new crosswalks will be added at Watfield Avenue and Georgia Avenue, and the intersection will be reconstructed at Pine Street to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Construction is scheduled to begin next week and is expected to be completed by late fall 2026. The City is committed to minimizing disruption and will maintain ongoing communication with residents and businesses throughout the construction period. However, there will be traffic delays and road closures throughout the project. Commuters should avoid the area if possible and plan alternative routes.

For more information, visit the Third Street Project Page at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/Third

Strategic Link: Environmental Responsibility, Livability, Excellence in Governance

Key Points

- Third Street is a vital connector near downtown Nanaimo, and this renewal presents an opportunity to modernize both the underground utilities and the streetscape.
- Upgrades include new watermains, sewer, storm infrastructure, road surface, sidewalks, separated cycle tracks and treed boulevards.
- Construction is scheduled to break ground in November 2025 and to wrap up by fall 2026.
- On Third Street, new crosswalks will be installed at Watfield Ave and Georgia Ave, a new pedestrian signal will be installed at Howard Ave, and intersection upgrades at Pine St.

Quotes

"Replacing aging underground utilities gives us a unique opportunity to redesign the surface for the future. We're not only improving essential infrastructure but also creating safer, more inclusive spaces for all users. This project reflects the City of Nanaimo's continued commitment to sustainable, forward-thinking design that supports a healthy, connected community."

Annalisa Fipke P.Eng.
Engineering Projects
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Utility replacement, streetscape improvements planned for Third Street corridor

Quick Facts

- Knappett Industries Ltd. has been awarded the construction contract.
- The underground infrastructure (water, sewer, and storm) and above ground infrastructure (road surface and signals) have reached the end of their useful life and require replacement.

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View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR251107UtilityReplacementStreetscapeImprovementsPlannedForThirdStreetCorridor>