Harvie Passage – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is going on?

The Harvie Passage was damaged during the 2013 flood. The Harvie Passage is being rehabilitated to repair flood damages, make it safer for river users and to reinstate upstream fish passage.

2. Why is this work being done?

The Harvie Passage has been closed to the public since the 2013 flood. Rehabilitating the project will reinstate boat and fish passage and recreational opportunities through, and adjacent to, the Harvie Passage.

3. Will the Harvie Passage look the same as it did prior to the 2013 flood?

The portion of Harvie Passage along Deerfoot Trail will look the same. Some of the boulder structures will be rehabilitated and the island between the two channels will be repaired. The smaller channel which was called the Low Water Channel will be constructed in the eroded channel that was created during the 2013 flood. The new Low Water Channel will be located along the bank adjacent Pearce Estate Park.

The new Low Water Channel (LWC) will be more complex than the original LWC. It will consists of a series of small rapids, pools and beaches to allow passage of boaters (canoes, kayaks, rafts, standup paddleboards) and fish. An intensive revegetation plan of the new LWC and adjacent island is included and a new pedestrian pathway will be constructed along the channel adjacent to Pearce Estate Park.

4. When is the work being done?

Construction is scheduled to start in August 2016 and will be completed by summer 2018.

5. Who is doing this project?

Alberta Transportation in partnership with Alberta Environment and Parks and The City of Calgary and several stakeholder groups.

6. Why does construction take so long?

Construction is scheduled to reduce the impact on the river and fish. Instream construction will not occur during periods that the fish are spawning. There will be periods when there will be no construction activity on site.

7. Will the adjacent pathways be closed during construction?

No, as much as practically possible, the pathways will remain open. There will be times when flag people will be required to ensure pathway user safety when construction equipment is either driving on or across the pathways.

8. How much does the project cost? Who is paying for it?

\$8,000,000. The majority of the project is funded under the Disaster Recovery Program and from contributions from The City of Calgary, Alberta Transportation, and the Harvie Passage Alliance.

9. What areas will the project impact?

Construction access is required on both sides of the river. Construction access to the east or Deerfoot Trail side of the river is off of 17th Avenue S.E. and along the City of Calgary pathway. Construction access to the west side of the river is off of 17A Street S.E. south of Pearce Estate Park, through the southeast corner of Pearce Estate Park and across the City of Calgary pathway to the river.

Aberta Government