

# Highway 19 Twinning FAQ

## **Why is Highway 19 being twinned now?**

Highway 19 is a 12-kilometre, two-lane, high-volume, high load corridor connecting Highway 60 and Highway 2. It is a critical piece of infrastructure that supports continued economic growth in the capital region.

Highway 19 is commonly used as a route to the Edmonton International Airport, Town of Devon, Leduc County, Nisku Business Park and the City of Leduc. Current Highway 19 traffic volumes warrant the development of a four-lane road.

The overall plan is to increase Highway 19 to four lanes from Highway 60 to Highway 2. There will be six lanes for the last 1.8 kilometres adjacent to Highway 2 in order to provide capacity for future development. The extra two lanes are improvements that are being done to accommodate private developers, and are being paid for by the developers themselves.

## **What work is being completed?**

The Highway 19 twinning project has been divided into three phases—East Project, West Project and Middle Project. Preliminary work for the first phase (“East Project”) of the three-phase project began in summer 2017.

The East Project runs from kilometre marker 9.8 to kilometre marker 12.2. The East Project also includes realignment of the Airport Perimeter Road (42 Street) and illumination

and signalization of 42 Street and 34 Street Intersection.

The new traffic signals and additional highway lanes will improve safety at these intersections for current and future traffic volumes.

## **When will construction occur?**

Construction began in June of 2017 and is expected to be finished in summer 2018, weather permitting. The West Project begins at Highway 60 and runs from kilometre marker 0 to kilometre marker 3.5. It includes the construction of four new lanes of highway, two new traffic signals and illumination at the Highway 19 and Highway 60 intersection. Tendering and construction will get underway once land acquisition and utility relocation has been completed.

These improvements will see improved safety at Highway 19’s two major intersections—Highway 2 and Highway 60—as well as reduced congestion and delay at these critical junctions.

The Middle Project runs from kilometre marker 3.5 to kilometre marker 9.8. Planning for the Middle Project is ongoing. It is not currently on the three-year provincial construction program.

## **What will East Project construction entail?**

This year, weather permitting, the scope of work includes the realignment of the Airport Perimeter Road intersection to the west (to 42

Street) to improve safety and visibility at this intersection as well as initial grading for the new eastbound lanes.

### **What will the traffic impacts of East Project construction for 2017?**

The grading for the new eastbound lanes will be done to the south of the existing Highway 19 lanes on airport land. All existing lanes will remain open to traffic. Disruption should be minimal and limited to speed reductions that will ensure the safety of motorists and construction grading crews.

Up-to-the-minute information about Highway 19 construction and traffic impacts can be found on [511.alberta.ca](http://511.alberta.ca) and on Twitter [@ABTransComm](https://twitter.com/ABTransComm) and [@511Alberta](https://twitter.com/511Alberta).

### **Who is cost-sharing the East Project?**

There are three stakeholders with a financial interest in the East Project—Alberta Transportation at 72 per cent cost-share, Remington Development Corporation at 26 per cent and the Edmonton Regional Airports Authority at two per cent.

### **Why is this a cost-shared project?**

The Remington Development Corporation and the Airports Authority have requested additional improvements be added to Alberta Transportation's East Project, at their expense. These improvements are required to accommodate additional traffic generated by future developments or to meet current needs (i.e. two extra lanes for Remington's future development planned for the area and improvements to intersections leading to the airport.) Both organizations are paying for their requested upgrades.

The purpose of proactively doing all this work at once is to reduce traffic impacts to motorists and local residents.

### **Are there any environmental impacts to the Highway 19 East project?**

An Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed for the East Project and all environmental standards and requirements are being met.

### **Does this project have anything to do with the City of Edmonton's proposed annexation of land in Leduc County?**

No. Alberta Transportation owns and manages Highway 19 and its right-of-way. While this project is occurring on lands that are part of the area Edmonton has proposed to annex from Leduc County, it has nothing to do with the proposed annexation. The planning for this project has been underway since 2006.

### **What work will occur in 2018?**

2018 will see the bulk of the work completed for the East Project, subject to weather.

### **East Project Completion:**

- Final grading, base course and paving of new eastbound lanes.
- New intersection constructed at EIA's 42 Street and Highway 19.
- Intersection improvements at EIA's 34 Street (Range Road 252) and Highway 19.
- Widen existing highway surface to three lanes westbound.
- Highway 19 lowered to meet Federal Aerodrome Regulations and Alberta Transportation's high load corridor requirements.

- Realignment of eastbound Highway 19 to southbound Highway 2 ramp.
- Double lane exit ramp off Highway 2 constructed.
- New westbound ramp constructed onto Highway 19.

#### **Will there be any further work done in the area at this time?**

In 2017, Alberta Transportation also plans to develop a fourth, 6.3 kilometre southbound driving lane on Highway 2 between 41 Avenue SW and Highway 19. This is not part of the Highway 19 East Project; however, it will also improve operations on Highway 2 and traffic exiting onto Highway 19 and/or Nisku Business Park.

#### **What will be the traffic impacts in 2017?**

Motorists should be prepared for some delays during East Project construction in 2017; however, Alberta Transportation will work closely with contractors to keep traffic impacts to a minimum.

More information about construction and traffic impacts can be found on [511.alberta.ca](http://511.alberta.ca) and on Twitter [@ABTransComm](https://twitter.com/ABTransComm) and [@511Alberta](https://twitter.com/511Alberta).

#### **What are the plans for the Middle Project twinning?**

Edmonton International Airport is planning a future third runway adjacent to Highway 19 and the realignment of the middle portion of the highway may be necessary. Alberta Transportation understands the importance of EIA's runway expansion to the economic future of the Edmonton region.

Planning to complete the twinning of the middle portion of Highway 19 is underway.

Alberta Transportation is working with the airport to determine the impact of the third runway location on Highway 19.

Before a decision is made on the realignment of the middle portion of Highway 19, EIA and AT will consult with area landowners and other stakeholders.

The Middle Project is not currently on Alberta Transportation's Three-Year Provincial Construction Program.

#### **What is the cost of these projects?**

The East Project is now underway. The estimated cost is \$25 million. The West Project has not yet been tendered. Costs will be released once tenders are awarded. The Middle Project is not currently on the three-year provincial construction program. When budget and approvals allow, this project will be tendered.