

## Highway 19A upgrade between Moilliet Street and Rushton Lane

PARKSVILLE, BC: Over the past five months, significant infrastructure upgrades have been underway along Highway 19A between Moilliet Street and Rushton Lane. The contract worth \$1,996,004 (plus taxes) awarded to Knappett Industries Ltd of Nanaimo is expected to be completed by early October with the following works yet to be finalized:

- Remainder of the interim asphalt sidewalk along the westbound lane. This will provide a continuous sidewalk connection along the entire Highway 19A from the Englishman River bridge to Stanhope Road.
- Traffic signals will be activated at the end of the project. This is expected to greatly improve north-south connectivity across Highway 19A.
- Minor storm works to be completed off Highway 19A.
- Line painting and landscaping.

We would like the public to know that the work being completed in 2013 is partially provisional. The traffic signals, median islands and concrete sidewalks are all permanent and the remainder of the works (such as asphalt sidewalks and curbs) is interim.

A traffic study completed for the City in 2012 by EBA Engineering and Associates found that widening of Highway 19A to four lanes was not warranted at this time; however the study did point out several pedestrian and vehicle access safety issues which needed to be resolved immediately. The work on Highway 19A when completed as part of this project will satisfy the report findings and will address the pedestrian and vehicle access concerns. The ultimate widening did not occur at this time simply because it was not needed.

The remainder of the highway between Pym Street and Dogwood Street is scheduled to be widened to the ultimate four lane cross section by the year 2022. It should be pointed out that this next phase of Highway 19A widening is solely dependent on the City's ability to acquire through development or purchase, the necessary road right of way in the future.

The EBA report, *Corridor Improvement Study from Bay Avenue to Moilliet Street*, is available for review on the City's website along with tender documents and public information session materials. <http://www.parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=452>

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**For more information:**

Engineering and Operations Department

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