



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

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Q & A

HAROLD STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT

What is the Harold Street North Revitalization Project?

The project will reconstruct and revitalize the one-block section of Harold Street between Ward Street and Delany Avenue.

It will renew essential underground infrastructure, improve safety and accessibility, better organize pedestrian movement, traffic and parking, and create a more functional and inviting commercial street and public place.

When will construction take place?

Construction will begin in September 2026, with completion anticipated in spring 2027. The schedule may be affected by weather, underground conditions, material availability or other circumstances that arise during construction. Updates will be provided as the work progresses.

Who is undertaking the construction?

Following a competitive procurement process, the Village awarded the construction contract to Kays Contracting, of Nelson, BC. Lawson Engineering completed the detailed engineering and supported the Village through the procurement process, and will continue to provide project management services throughout construction.

Why is the Village undertaking this project?

Harold Street is Slocan's commercial core and has become increasingly busy as the community has evolved and welcomed more visitors. The project will renew aging infrastructure, improve pedestrian and vehicle safety, increase accessibility, and create a more welcoming place for businesses, residents and visitors. It advances a long-standing community priority that was identified in the Village's 2011 Sustainability & Transition Plan, and reaffirmed in Slocan's 2022 Official Community Plan.

Why is the Village proceeding with Harold Street instead of other priorities, such as the Waterfront Commons (mill site)?

Major community projects do not always proceed in a single sequence. They move forward as planning, technical work, partnerships, approvals and appropriate funding opportunities come together.

Harold Street has been a community priority for many years. Its concept plan and detailed engineering are complete, and the project was ready to proceed when funding aligned with the work. Funding secured for Harold Street is designated for this project and cannot simply be redirected to another priority.

The Waterfront Commons remains a significant long-term priority for the Village. As a larger and more complex redevelopment, it requires its own planning, community and Indigenous engagement, infrastructure considerations, partnerships and funding strategy. That work can continue while Harold Street moves into construction.

These projects are not competing visions. Revitalizing the commercial core and planning for the future of the Waterfront Commons are complementary parts of building a connected, vibrant and resilient community.

How much is being invested in the project?

The Harold Street North Revitalization Project represents an overall investment of approximately \$2.45 million.

The Village has secured approximately \$2.45 million in grant funding for the project, including Provincial funding through Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure Fund, through the Canada Community-Building Fund's Strategic Priorities Fund, and through Columbia Basin Trust.

For a municipality of Slokan's size, this is a significant investment. The funding was secured following several years of planning, design, engineering, cost estimating and work to align the project with available grant opportunities.

What work is included?

The project includes:

- Water-main replacement and service tie-ins
- New stormwater infrastructure, including a stormwater main, catch basins and drywells
- Road regrading and reconstruction
- Sidewalks, curbs and gutters
- Accessibility improvements
- Ornamental street lighting
- Irrigation infrastructure
- Fibre conduit
- Landscaping and street trees
- Benches and other seating
- Bicycle racks
- Plaza
- Waste and recycling receptacles
- Parking, signage and pavement markings

Some details may be adjusted during construction in response to site conditions while maintaining the project's overall intent.

Is this primarily a beautification project?

The project is first and foremost an investment in essential public infrastructure. It will replace aging water infrastructure, introduce stormwater infrastructure where none currently exists, and reconstruct the road and sidewalks. Lighting, landscaping, seating and public spaces are being incorporated while the street is under construction.

Together, these improvements will create a safer and more functional commercial street and a more inviting public place where people can meet, move comfortably between businesses and services, and participate in Village life.

Was the community consulted?

Yes. The 2018 Harold Street North Conceptual Design Plan was developed with extensive community input. The vision was subsequently reaffirmed through the public engagement that informed Slokan's 2022 Official Community Plan. As the project moved into detailed design, the Village worked to refine elements of the plan in response to feedback.

Council has worked to balance parking, accessibility, pedestrian safety, property access, infrastructure requirements, public gathering space, maintenance and long-term community benefit.

Why is the entire block being completed as one coordinated project?

Completing the block as one coordinated project allows the underground infrastructure, road, sidewalks, drainage, lighting and landscaping to be constructed together.

This reduces the likelihood that newly completed surfaces will need to be disturbed for additional work later. It also avoids extending major construction over several separate phases and provides a more complete and functional result. Although this approach will create short-term disruption, it should reduce the overall time and cost required to complete the block.

Will Harold Street businesses remain open?

Yes. Harold Street businesses will remain open, although access may change temporarily as construction progresses.

The Village and Kays Contracting will work with businesses and property owners to maintain reasonable pedestrian and delivery access wherever possible. Temporary walkways, signs and other measures will help people reach businesses safely.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to continue supporting Harold Street businesses throughout construction.

How will construction affect traffic and parking?

Temporary road closures, traffic restrictions, detours and parking changes will be necessary at different stages of construction. The extent and duration of these changes will depend on the construction sequence. The Village will provide advance notice of significant closures and share information about detours and available parking.

Drivers and pedestrians should follow construction signage and use extra care when travelling through the area. Additional and overflow parking areas will be clearly visible and identified with signage.

What will happen to parking when the project is complete?

The completed design provides a more clearly defined and organized parking layout that is expected to increase the amount of usable frontage parking. The layout balances parking needs with safety, accessibility, sidewalks, property access, landscaping, pedestrian safety and public amenity space.

What is being done to improve accessibility?

Accessibility is a central objective of the project. The reconstructed street will provide improved sidewalks, grades and connections to businesses, properties and community facilities. Because existing buildings and grades create some constraints, accessibility improvements may differ from property to property. The Village will continue working with affected property owners as construction proceeds.

What is being done about stormwater and drainage?

This section of Harold Street has been identified in the Village's Stormwater Plan as an improvement area for stormwater runoff. Harold Street North currently does not have adequate stormwater infrastructure, and the project will introduce a stormwater system that includes a new main, catch basins, and drywells. The street will also be regraded to improve how water moves through the block. These improvements will provide better long-term management of runoff and drainage.

How will deliveries and emergency access be managed?

The Village and Kays Contracting will communicate with businesses about access restrictions and delivery needs. Temporary loading arrangements may be required at different times.

Emergency access will be addressed through the construction traffic-management plan. The Village and contractor will coordinate with emergency service providers before significant closures or access changes occur.

Could the design or schedule change during construction?

Minor adjustments are common during major infrastructure projects, particularly when underground conditions are uncovered. Any necessary adjustments will be evaluated based on safety, accessibility, cost, constructability and the intent of the original design. If a significant issue affects the project's budget, schedule or scope, the Village will provide an update.

How will the Village minimize disruption?

The Village's approach will include:

- Regular construction updates
- Advance notice of significant closures and access changes
- Temporary business-access signs
- Clearly marked pedestrian routes and detours
- Coordination with businesses and property owners
- Planning for deliveries, emergency access and community events
- Completing the work as one coordinated project

Construction will still be disruptive, but proactive communication and coordination will help reduce its effects.

How will the public receive updates?

Regular information about construction schedules, closures, detours, parking and business access will be shared through the Village's website, social-media channels, newsletter, signage and public notices.

The Village will also communicate directly with affected businesses and property owners when significant access changes are anticipated.

Who should I contact with questions or concerns?

Questions can be directed to:

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