



## Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Major infrastructure improvements for Vernon during 2020 construction season

A number of major infrastructure projects have been completed across Vernon during the 2020 construction season, including upgrades to underground utilities, roadways, parks, drainage, and active transportation routes.

Today, a major north-south corridor re-opened to traffic, as work was completed on Pleasant Valley Road between 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and BX Creek. The project included the construction of a new storm sewer main and outfall into BX Creek, road reconstruction, new curbs, gutters and a multi-use path, and safety improvements at the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

“We are incredibly proud of the construction work that took place in Vernon this year,” said Mayor Victor Cumming. “In the midst of global disruption and a lot of economic uncertainty caused by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City managed to keep on track and on pace with more than \$18-million in infrastructure renewal and improvement projects we had planned this year. Not only did this work revitalize critical infrastructure, but it also helped support our local economy, and added new and improved active transportation routes to support a more sustainable and healthy future for our community.”

The City appreciates the patience and understanding of residents, businesses and visitors while detours and road, trail and lane closures took place to accommodate the construction activities.

In addition to the Pleasant Valley Road project, some of the major projects in 2020 included:

- **48<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between 29<sup>th</sup> St and HWY 97):** new drainage culvert and storm outfall, road improvements to address seasonal localized flooding, new multi-use pathway and curbing, and a new transit bus access to the Village Green Shopping Centre.
- **32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (between 33<sup>rd</sup> St and 35<sup>th</sup> St):** rehabilitation of water main, storm and sanitary sewer utilities, sidewalk replacement, road rehabilitation, and a new traffic signal at 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave and 34<sup>th</sup> St.
- **29<sup>th</sup> Street and 30<sup>th</sup> Street (between 37<sup>th</sup> Ave and 41<sup>st</sup> Ave):** a new road through the former Civic Arena site, rehabilitation of sanitary, storm and road infrastructure, a new

multi-use pathway, and a double roundabout – *to be completed in spring 2021.*

- **25<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between 28<sup>th</sup> Ave and VWRC):** installation of a new high strength waste sanitary sewer main using directional drilling.
- **25<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Okanagan Landing Road (between Tronson Road and VWRC):** twinning of a sewer force main using directional drilling – *to be completed in 2021.*
- **Polson Park:** pedestrian and cyclist trail upgrade to multi-use pathway in the south end of the park.
- **Okanagan Landing Road (between Lakeshore Rd and Paddlewheel Park):** multi-use pathway upgrades and installation of concrete barriers to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- **15<sup>th</sup> Street/Middleton Way:** installation of a multi-use pathway between Kosmina Road and HWY 6.
- **Eastside Road, Tronson Road and Crosby Road:** Rock slope stabilization work.

The City of Vernon has a rolling four-year Capital Plan to address asset management and public infrastructure needs. Some of the work completed this year was part of a multi-year project strategy, including the rehabilitation of 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Pleasant Valley Road, and the creation of the new corridor between 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Due to unseasonable cold weather this fall, paving on the 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Street corridor at 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue could not be completed this year. The construction zone will remain closed to through traffic until paving can be completed in the spring, to avoid material damage from snow plowing and vehicles on the unpaved surface.

“Earlier this week, Council endorsed the 2021 budget,” said Mayor Cumming. “To help reduce the overall budget increase, Council chose to pause the ongoing 1.9% infrastructure levy for one year, which means there will be no increase to the capital budget next year. However, the City still has more than \$18-million worth of capital projects ready to go for 2021, which will continue to renew and replace aging infrastructure, enhance transportation safety, and support our local economy as we move towards a period of recovery.”

To learn more about the City’s capital works projects, and the ongoing 1.9% infrastructure levy, please visit the City’s website at [www.vernon.ca/capitalworks](http://www.vernon.ca/capitalworks).

*Below are before and after images of the upgrades made to 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between 29<sup>th</sup> Street and HWY 97.*

