

Whitemud Drive Arterial Expansion: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is being built?

Whitemud Drive between Lewis Estates Boulevard and 231 Street is being widened from two lanes to four lanes with a raised centre median. This includes construction of new intersection improvements, storm drainage systems (ditches, swales, and culverts), arterial road surfaces, power and street lighting, utility relocations and upgrades. Construction will occur along the full 2.4 km corridor between Lewis Estates Boulevard and 231 Street. When complete, the corridor will provide a safer, higher-capacity connection between communities west of Highway 60, west Edmonton, and Enoch Cree Nation.

Q: Why is this expansion needed?

Traffic volumes on this section of Whitemud Drive have grown beyond what the existing two-lane roadway can safely handle. The expansion supports continued development in west Edmonton and Enoch Cree Nation, providing safer and more efficient travel for all road users. The four-lane divided cross-section with dedicated turn lanes will accommodate existing and future traffic volumes.

Q: Who is responsible for this project?

This project is led by Enoch Cree Nation, with funding shared between Enoch Cree Nation, the City of Edmonton, and the Province of Alberta. This is a developer-initiated project and is not funded through City of Edmonton capital budgets. McElhanney Ltd. is the engineering design consultant. The City of Edmonton's Subdivision and Development Coordination section oversees engineering drawing review and approval.

Q: When will construction start and how long will it take?

Tree clearing took place in spring 2026, before the migratory bird nesting season. Road construction will follow, progressing in stages along the corridor. Construction is expected to continue into 2027. Timelines are subject to change based on weather, approvals and construction conditions.

Q: Will Whitemud Drive be closed during construction?

Whitemud Drive between 231 Street and 215 Street (Winterburn Road) will require a full road closure during construction. Between 215 Street and Lewis Estates Boulevard, at least one lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction. Construction will proceed in stages

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along the corridor. Detour signage and alternate routes will be in place for the duration of construction. A temporary road closure and detour information map will be distributed when detour routes are finalized.

Q: How will this affect my property access?

Local access to all properties adjacent to the construction area will be maintained throughout the project. Temporary detours or access changes will be communicated in advance with appropriate signage.

Q: Why are trees being removed?

The wider roadway, drainage ditches, and utility corridors require more space than the current road allowance provides. The City of Edmonton's Urban Forestry team has assessed all affected trees in accordance with the Live Tree Removal Guidelines and determined which must be removed. A Tree Protection Plan has been prepared to protect trees being retained during construction.

Q: Will trees be replaced?

Yes. Tree compensation will be collected under Corporate Tree Management Policy C456C and deposited into the City of Edmonton Tree Reserve. These funds will be applied toward replanting in available City of Edmonton open spaces.

Q: What about wildlife in the area?

Professional wildlife sweeps by a qualified biologist will be completed before any tree clearing or ground disturbance to ensure compliance with federal migratory bird nesting regulations and the Alberta Wildlife Act. The area will be certified clear before work proceeds. If active nests are found, work in that area will be delayed until the nesting period is complete.

Q: Will there be noise and dust during construction?

Construction activities may generate noise and dust. Contractors are required to follow the City of Edmonton Community Standards Bylaw 14600, which permits construction activity Monday to Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Erosion and sediment control measures will be in place throughout the project to manage dust and protect adjacent properties and waterways.

