



October 16, 2020

Busy Construction Season is Wrapping Up in Ponoka

(October 16, 2020 – Ponoka, Alberta) – Crews are working hard to wrap up a busy construction season in Ponoka this year. Numerous roadway and sidewalk improvements have been completed under the Town's annual Roadway Infrastructure Improvement Program, including:

- Milling and overlay of new pavement on 53 Avenue (from Highway 2A to 53 Street);
- Chip sealing of the Town roadway adjacent to Poplar Grove Village on 54 Street;
- Milling and overlay of new pavement on a portion of 38 Street (between 40 and 46 Avenue);
- Pavement replacement to repair frost boils at numerous locations throughout Ponoka (39A Avenue, 54 Avenue, 61 Avenue, 58 Avenue, 62 Street & 52 Avenue, and 46 Street & 44 Avenue);
- Paving of 52 Avenue (between 50 and 51 Street) following replacement of underground infrastructure on that street last year;
- Phase 2 of a three-year project to complete extensive roadway and storm drainage improvements in the southwest industrial park (on 64 Street between 42 and 44 Avenue);
- Crack sealing on roadways throughout Ponoka to extend the lifecycle of Town roadways by preventing moisture from seeping through cracks in the asphalt and prematurely causing the road surface to deteriorate and break apart;
- Curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements at numerous locations throughout the community (50 Avenue, 51 Avenue, 48 Avenue, 39A Avenue, and 57 Avenue); and
- Ongoing pothole repairs which have continued throughout the season. To report a pothole on Town roadways that needs repair, please phone 403-783-0159 or fill out the Online Service Request Form at www.ponoka.ca by clicking the E-Service button on the right-hand side of the page.

“As Mayor, I’m very pleased with the large volume and quality of improvements that have been made this year in our roadway and sidewalk infrastructure, and to our parks and trail system. Our annual Roadway Infrastructure Improvement Program, along with the new park designs and walking trail extensions that were built this year, are all important investments in our community that increase the quality of life for Ponoka citizens,” said Ponoka Mayor Rick Bonnett.

New Park Designs Nearing Completion

Crews continue to work this week on the construction of new park designs at Old Hospital Rotary Park and Central Park which are expected to be completed around the end of October (weather pending). The construction of a new walking trail extension at the Ponoka Tractor Park that will connect Downtown Ponoka to the Battle River Trail System is also expected to be completed around the end of October (weather pending). If the arrival of winter conditions prevents the park and trail improvements from being completed this year, they will be completed in the spring of 2021.



The work at the Tractor Park is among four new trail extensions being constructed in Ponoka this year to create a continuous walking path between Town parks and the river valley trail system. New trail segments were built at the top of the green bridge at the north end of the Battle River Trail system; at the new parking lot on 50 Street across from the Ponoka Civic Centre, and another trail extension is being constructed at the south side of the Ponoka Civic Centre connecting 50 Street with Old Hospital Rotary Park.

The trail extensions and new park designs are all funded through provincial and federal grant funding (the Alberta Municipal Sustainability Initiative and the Federal Gas Tax). These recreation improvement projects are based on recommendations in the Town's Recreation and Culture Master Plan (2016-2036), the Urban Framework Master Plan (2020) and the Downtown Action Plan (2017). The park improvement designs were developed in consultation with the Ponoka Recreation, Parks and Culture Committee along with other community groups. Virtual tours of the new park designs can be viewed at www.ponoka.ca

51 Avenue Infrastructure Renewal Planned for 2021

Plans are already underway for the 2021 construction season which will include the redevelopment of 51 Avenue (between 50 and 51 Street) in Downtown Ponoka. That project will include the renewal and replacement of the roadway, sidewalks and redevelopment of the Town-owned parking lot on the south side of the street. The redevelopment of 51 Avenue will also include streetscaping with new street furniture and landscaping along that downtown block.

The 51 Avenue project is being funded through the Alberta Municipal Sustainability Initiative and the provincial Municipal Stimulus Program, which is a key component of Alberta's Recovery Plan. The project is based on recommendations in the Town's Downtown Action Plan, Transportation Master Plan and Urban Framework Master Plan.

Further planning for the 2021 construction season in Ponoka will be discussed during Town Council 2021 budget deliberations on November 18 and 19, 2020. Members of the public are welcome to observe the budget deliberations electronically. To register, please phone 403-783-4431 no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting. You will be provided with details on how to observe the meeting by telephone or an online audio link.

For Media Inquiries:

Sandra Smith
Communications Manager
Town of Ponoka
403-783-0158
communications@ponoka.ca