



*Deep Roots
Greater Heights*

District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Construction Schedule Set for East Section of Downtown Enhancement Project

Maple Ridge, BC: In late July, subject to Council's approval of the tender for work, construction will begin on the east section of the District's Downtown Enhancement Project. In addition to minor underground utility improvements, the road surface, sidewalks and intersection treatments will be upgraded to match the work done at the west entrance to the Town Centre completed in 2011.

The work will start on Lougheed Highway at the intersection of 226 Street and move east to the intersection of 228 Street. Work will commence in late July and be completed by the end of September 2013.

"This project leverages the work that is being funded by the builders of the Maple Ridge Community Gaming Centre, who are working on completing the connection of 227 Street from Haney Bypass up to the intersection with Lougheed Highway. By doing the work at the same time the District is able to leverage the private funding to create the kind of pedestrian friendly streetscapes that have been so well received in the western portion of the Town Centre," said Mayor Ernie Daykin. "Council is committed to creating a vibrant Town Centre and this work reflects the dynamic changes that have been happening along this section of Lougheed. The combination of residential and commercial development makes this the time to act in this area," he concluded.

The surface work will include improved sidewalks, streetlights, street furniture, street trees and the crosswalk markings that have become very popular in the first phase of the Downtown Enhancement Project.

In addition to the surface works that will create a vibrant gateway to the eastern portion of the Town Centre, the District will also be doing upgrades on the infrastructure below the pavement. One of the most interesting is the installation of 'Silva Cells' which create a place for the street trees to take root without heaving up the sidewalks. One of the most popular aspects of the first phase of the Downtown Enhancement Project was the intersection treatments. Citizens and local businesses continue to comment on how these treatments create a greater sense of safety and visibility for pedestrians. Once these treatments are put into place along Lougheed Highway at the intersections of 228,

227 and 226 Streets it will be clear to motorists that they have entered a more urban, pedestrian-oriented environment.

The District is currently in the tendering stage of the project and is expected to award the construction contract within the next few weeks. The District of Maple Ridge will communicate information about the project to the public using the regular 'Maple Ridge This Month' newspaper advertising, through its website at mapleridge.ca, via social media channels with photo galleries at www.facebook.com/yourmapleridge and regular tweets on the District Twitter channel @YourMapleRidge. In addition the businesses, residents and property owners in the construction zone can expect weekly eNewsletter updates for the duration of the project.

For more information on the East Lougheed phase of the Downtown Enhancement Project please contact Darrell Denton at 604.467-5704 or by email at ddenton@mapleridge.ca