



# City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Construction Begins on 128 Avenue Four Lane Widening from 210 to 216 Street**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** In May, 2015 Council awarded the contract to King Hoe Excavating Ltd. to begin construction of the four lane expansion of 128 Avenue from 210 to 216 Street. This \$8.2 million project is the first phase of a project that will see 128 Avenue and Abernethy Way expanded to a four lane configuration with storm water systems, streetlights and intersection turn lanes to allow better north south access from this busy roadway. In addition to the improved road network, this project also includes a separated asphalt multi-use path from 210 to 216 Street to enhance safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists.

“All of us on Council are excited to see this project move from the design stage to the construction of phase one. This is a well-travelled route for our citizens in the north east portion of the community, and was identified as a priority in our Transportation Plan,” said Mayor Nicole Read. “This project, phased over a number of years, will create better connections for all modes of travel. The separated multi-use path will create a gateway for cyclists and pedestrians to connect to the extensive trail network on the dykes. Transportation flow and connectivity are a high priority for citizens, and we are proud to break ground on this key project,” she added.

This project actually began almost a decade ago. City Engineering staff examined a number of routes for transportation and utility expansion, and the 128 Avenue/Abernethy corridor were identified as having the highest potential for success. The need for a new Metro Vancouver watermain from the new Metro Vancouver water distribution plant at 200 Street and Lougheed Highway east to 232 Street was a tipping point to advance from concept to the planning phase.

“Over five years ago we began the process of acquiring the land right of way for this project. By working with our partners at Metro Vancouver on the expanded water utility service using the

same route, we were able to stage this project in a way that will result in a highly integrated project that addresses both the growing traffic and water needs of our community,' said Frank Quinn, Maple Ridge's General Manager: Public Works & Development Services. He continued, "This approach of looking at the long term needs of our community allows us to move quickly when there are funding opportunities with the Regional, Provincial or Federal governments. This project represents years of planning combined with our Council's will to ensure that Maple Ridge's infrastructure meets the needs of citizens today and into the future. It's very exciting to see this work begin."

In addition to the road widening and the construction of the multi-use path, this section of road will also be a large scale pilot project for new LED streetlight technology. The capital costs are being offset by grants from BC Hydro and the electrical costs of the LED street lighting are less than half that of conventional sodium streetlights. In addition to the LED streetlights, ducting will be laid along the route for future fibre optic cable installation as part of the City's long term strategy.

Phase one is scheduled to be complete in November of 2015 and the work is being staged to minimize disruptions to the people that rely on 128 Avenue for their daily commute. Construction will begin on the south lanes of the roadway with the goal of switching traffic over to those new lanes so the north lanes and multi-use path can be constructed. There will be some delays as the work proceeds, and notices will be posted on the City website and social media pages as the project proceeds.

Here is a link to the project page that contains information that was presented at the Open House meetings that were held earlier this year;

[www.mapleridge.ca/406/128-Avenue-Road-and-Drainage-Improvement](http://www.mapleridge.ca/406/128-Avenue-Road-and-Drainage-Improvement)

The second phase of the project will run from 216 through to 224 Street. The project costs will come before Council as part of the 2016 capital plan and budget review.

For more information on the project contact Jeff Boehmer at [jboehmer@mapleridge.ca](mailto:jboehmer@mapleridge.ca) or by calling 604-463-5221.

Photo information:

From Left to right: Frank Quinn, General Manager: Public Works & Development Services, Patrick Kerr, President King Hoe Excavating, Maple Ridge Mayor Nicole Read, Councillor Craig

Speirs, Erica Messam, City of Maple Ridge Engineering and King Hoe Excavating Construction  
Superintendent Bruce Pantel.