REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

Departure Bay Pump Station and Forcemain Project

Traffic Management Strategy

Sewer infrastructure under Hammond Bay Rd, connecting the Departure Bay Pump Station, at Departure Bay Rd and Hammond Bay Rd intersection, to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, at McGuffie Rd and Hammond Bay Rd intersection, is nearing the end of its service life. Upgrading this critical system is essential. Construction is expected to begin in late 2026 and will be completed over the next four years.



What is a Traffic Management Strategy?

A **Traffic Management Strategy** (TMS) outlines how vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists will safely travel through and around construction zones. Detailed plans for each work zone will be developed and shared with the public. The TMS identifies routes, traffic controls and access needs for residents, commuters, emergency services and construction crews. It balances construction progress with community access while considering:

- Road safety
- Construction site safety
- Emergency services access (RCMP, BC Emergency Health Services, Nanaimo Fire and Rescue)
- Travel times
- School access (School District 68)
- RDN Transit & BC Transit operations
- City of Nanaimo Waste Collection services
- Pedestrian and cyclist mobility

The result is a coordinated approach that supports safe and efficient travel while allowing construction work to proceed as effectively as possible.

The Strategy

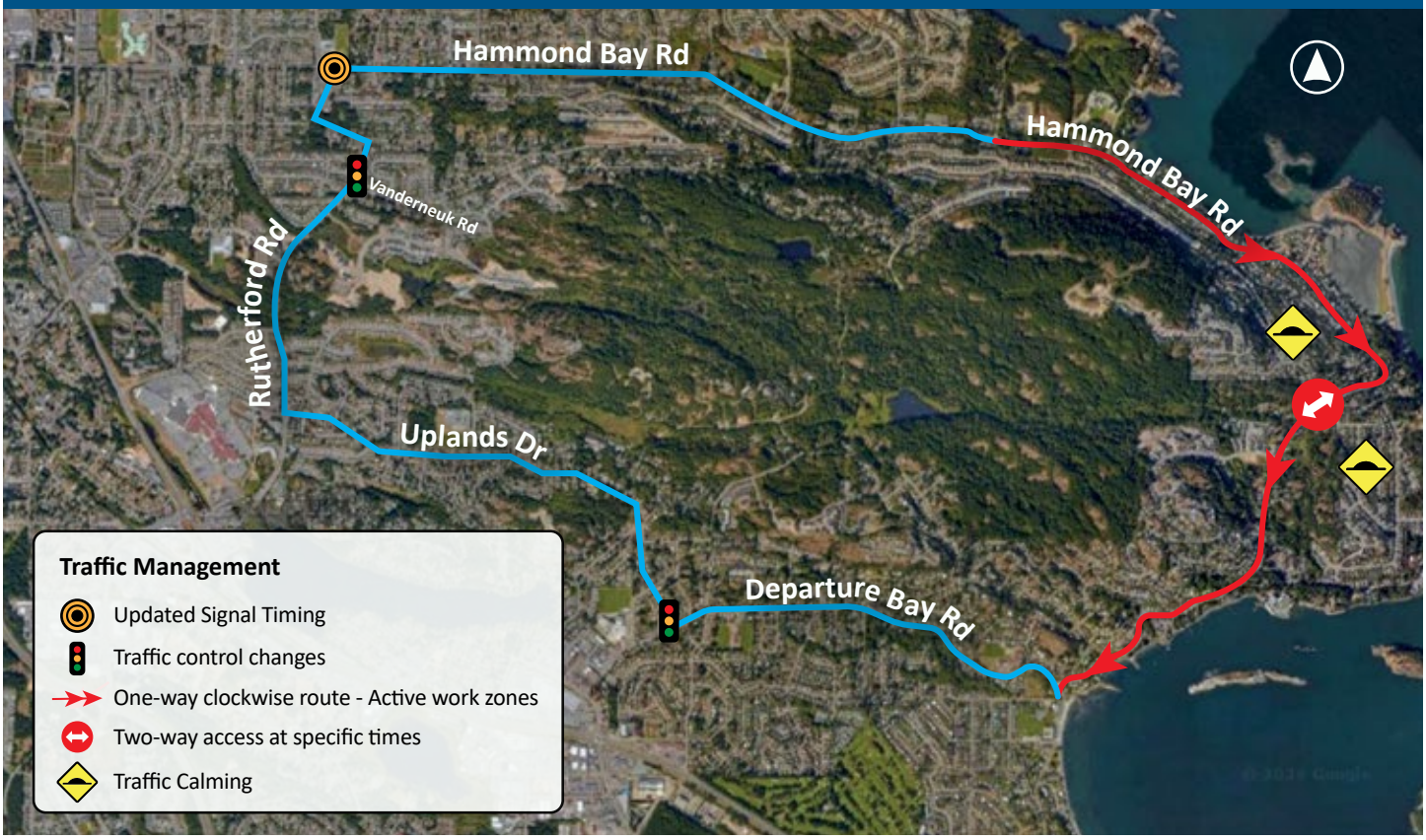
A traffic management strategy has been developed for the Departure Bay Pump Station and Forecemain Project based on extensive modelling and assessment. The plan includes these key elements during active construction periods:

	**One-way** (unidirectional) southbound traffic through construction zones (24/7)
	**Construction** in 2-3 work zones at a time
	**Two-way traffic** in inactive construction zones
	**Two-way access** for emergency, transit, garbage, and mail services
	**Maintain** existing pedestrian and cyclist access
	**Limited northbound** morning periods access for school buses
	**Northbound traffic detoured** Departure Bay - Uplands - Rutherford
	**Traffic calming** throughout bypass areas

Local Neighbourhood Streets

Traffic calming measures will be implemented throughout construction to help maintain safety for residents and commuters. While detour options were considered, opening side roads or removing bollards would reduce travel times for some, and reduce safety for others. Traffic conditions and community impacts will continue to be monitored, and adjustments to this approach may be considered based on how conditions evolve.

Departure Bay Pump Station and Forcemain Project — Traffic Management Strategy



Why One-Way Traffic?

The selected traffic management strategy was developed to minimize overall delays while maintaining safety and supporting efficient construction. Using one-way traffic has many advantages over single-lane alternating (SLAT) for this project including:

- One-way traffic will create much less traffic congestion on Hammond Bay Road and surrounding road networks.
- There will be less impact on transit reliability and emergency response times.
- Using a one-way traffic approach helps keep vehicles moving while maintaining access through the corridor.
- The project will be completed in less time – a traditional SLAT approach would create excessive delays and overlapping queues, preventing emergency access.

Preparing in Advance

To support the traffic management strategy, several improvements will be completed before major construction begins, including:

- Intersection improvements at Uplands/ Departure Bay and Vanderneuk/ Rutherford
- Upgrades at pedestrian crossings
- Signal modifications
- Traffic calming measures will be implemented where appropriate to help manage traffic on neighbouring streets

Want to stay informed?

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