

Highway 103 Argyle Interchange (Exits 32 and 32A)

The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (DPW) is currently in the planning stages for a new interchange on Highway 103 near the existing Exits 32 and 32A. Environmental screening studies and engineering planning work is underway.

BACKGROUND

The existing two-lane highway with three closely spaced at-grade intersections (Exit 32, Nakile Drive, and Exit 32A), results in local traffic mixing with higher speed through-traffic. These existing intersections off Highway 103 will be removed, allowing for traffic to use the new grade-separated interchange. Trunk 3 will be reinstated to allow for continuous secondary road access throughout Argyle and surrounding communities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed interchange will include a diamond ramp configuration with roundabouts constructed at each of the new ramp intersections. The existing overpass structure just east of Exit 32 will be used as the interchange structure.

Trunk 3 will be reconnected by upgrading Myrtle Lane and Chemin Old Oak Road. As part of the reconnection, two new structures will be built, one over Highway 103 and one over Argyle River. The design for the new structure over Highway 103 will consider future twinning of the highway. The existing at-grade highway intersections at Exit 32, Nakile Drive and Exit 32A will be

removed. Opportunities for active transportation are being explored along the reconnection of Trunk 3.

The attached map illustrates the preliminary project layout, showing the new highway ramps, new structures, and the continuous Trunk 3.

Careful planning and design measures along with accepted construction techniques will ensure that environmental impacts from road construction activities are minimized.

PROJECT STATUS

Planning work is underway for the project. Land requirements for the project are still under review and property acquisition is expected to begin in the Fall of 2023.

As part of DPW's planning efforts, non-invasive environmental and archaeological field studies have begun and will continue throughout 2023.

As the project progresses, DPW will host a public information session to share information about the project and maintain ongoing communications. The next phase of the project requires detailed design for the roadways, interchange, and structures, along with acquisition of the land and environmental

mitigation plans. The Department is continuing with pre-construction activities to ensure the project can proceed to construction when appropriate approvals are in place.

The project is currently programmed for 2025–2026 as a major construction project on the Five- Year Highway Improvement Plan.

PUBLIC FEEDBACK

A public information session is planned for Spring 2023 where the community will have an opportunity to learn more about the project and provide feedback and comments to the Department.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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