

HIGHWAY 5 COQUIHALLA UPDATE

April 2023



Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Barn Swallow Nesting Season

Barn swallow nesting season is from March to August. Barn swallows like to build their nests in protected areas that are sheltered from weather and predators. For example, nests are often built under bridges, in culverts and in the eaves of barns and stables.



Barn Swallow Facts

- Barn swallows are designated as a Special Concern species at risk under the Canadian *Species at Risk Act*.
- Barn swallow chicks stay in the nest for 18 to 23 days.
- Between 1970 and 2009, there was a decline of approximately 76% in the barn swallow population in Canada.

November 2021

- The Atmospheric River event damaged more than 20 sites and six bridges along the Coquihalla (Highway 5).

December 2022

- Temporary repairs restored capacity to four lanes on the Coquihalla.

Work continues to construct new permanent bridges at:

- Bottletop Bridge, 50 kilometres south of Merritt
- Juliet Bridge, 3 kilometres south of Bottletop
- Jessica Bridge, 20 kilometres north of Hope

How are we protecting Barn Swallows on the Coquihalla?

To prevent barn swallows from nesting on bridges that will be demolished, the bridges at the Bottletop, Jessica and Juliet sites have been wrapped in netting.

Bird kiosks have been built near each bridge to give the barn swallows another place to nest. Each bridge site will have two bird kiosks that can each house eight barn swallow nests.

The bird kiosks were designed by Morrison Hershfield and constructed by Cutes He Tmixw Contracting Corp, owned by Jayson Dunlap from Coldwater Indian Band.



The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regularly publishes these newsletters for local communities. See digital copies and the latest updates at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects/bc-highway-flood-recovery/2021-flood-road-recovery-projects-highway-5>.

HIGHWAY 5 RECOVERY UPDATE

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Climate Resilient Bridge Design

The new permanent bridges are designed to be resilient for future climate impacts, including:

- Deep steel pile foundations to provide bridge stability
- Longer bridges to provide more room for creek flow
- Placement of large rock berms to protect the bridges and roads from rising water

Directory

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Bottletop Bridge

Extent of Damage

- 3 bridge spans collapsed and roadways approaching the bridges washed away.

Current Status

- The installation of bridge deck precast panels, rebar and formwork on the new permanent northbound bridge is in progress.
- Concrete pours for the new permanent northbound bridge are in progress.
- Road work on the road approaching the new permanent northbound bridge is underway, and crews are preparing for paving.



Juliet Bridge

Extent of Damage

- 1 bridge span collapsed and roadways approaching the bridges washed away.

Current Status

- A permanent bridge is complete and open for northbound traffic.
- The installation of precast pier caps on the new permanent southbound bridge is in progress. Pier caps are the caps on the steel columns that extend to the foundation.
- The bridge girders for the new permanent southbound bridge have been built and crews are preparing to install the girders in the coming weeks.



Jessica Bridge

Extent of Damage

- 2 bridge spans collapsed and roadways approaching bridges washed away.

Current Status

- A temporary bridge is open for southbound traffic.
- The bridge deck and bridge girders have been installed on the new permanent southbound bridge.
- Crews are preparing to pour concrete for the new permanent southbound bridge deck in the coming weeks.
- The installation of rebar and formwork on the new permanent southbound bridge is in progress.



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