

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LANE CLOSURE ON COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AT WHITELEY DRIVE – UPDATE

Mount Pearl, NL – The City of Mount Pearl is providing an update regarding the ongoing closure of the right-hand lane heading southeast on Commonwealth Avenue at Whiteley Drive.

The issue originated in December 2025, when Bell undertook work within an underground concrete chamber at this location. During a routine City inspection, concerns were identified related to the structural integrity of the chamber roof.

Following this, Bell retained a third-party structural engineering firm to conduct further inspection and testing. At the end of February 2026, the assessment concluded that the roof of the concrete chamber does not have sufficient capacity to safely support the required loads based on the design criteria outlined in the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code (CSA S6).

To address this deficiency, Bell was required to submit updated engineering drawings to the City for review and approval. After extensive discussions and revisions, Bell has now advised that it intends to abandon the existing underground configuration in favour of an above-ground cable transfer solution. This work is currently underway and is expected to be completed by July 2026.

The City recognizes and shares the frustration expressed by residents and commuters regarding the ongoing lane closure on this key arterial route. Staff have remained actively engaged with Bell throughout this process in an effort to identify and implement a timely resolution. While the City is disappointed with the significant delays encountered to date, we will continue to work with Bell to support the completion of this project as quickly as possible.

Public safety remains the City's foremost priority. The lane closure is necessary to ensure the safe movement of vehicles and residents in accordance with applicable regulations. While the City is limited in its ability to compel further action beyond regulatory requirements, we are committed to seeing this matter resolved.

The City appreciates the public's patience and understanding as this work progresses and looks forward to restoring full access to Commonwealth Avenue upon completion.

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