



June 4, 2021

Overnight bike lane closures on Macdonald Bridge summer 2021

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia: During the summer and fall of 2021, Halifax Harbour Bridges (HHB) will be repairing the wearing surface on the approaches of the Macdonald Bridge bike lane (sections not replaced as part of the Big Lift).

Work on both ends of the bridge will begin Sunday, June 13. To complete the work safely, the bike lane will be closed from 7:00pm until 5:30am Sunday to Thursday. During the closures cyclists will need to walk their bike on the sidewalk of the bridge.

The bike lane will be open from 5:30am until 7:00pm daily and weekends. One weekend closure may be required towards the end of the project.

“We understand the Macdonald Bridge bike lane is a critical transportation route, which is why we have chosen to complete the project during the evening and overnight, when traffic is considerably reduced,” explains Steve Snider, HHB general manager and CEO. “We understand that any closure is inconvenient, and thank you for your patience in ensuring the bike lane is well maintained.”

If you are unable to walk your bicycle on the sidewalk during these overnight closures please contact bridges@hdbc.ns.ca.

Overnight bike lane closures on Macdonald Bridge begin June 2021

Questions and answers

What repairs are needed on the Macdonald Bridge bike lane?

Certain areas of the wearing surface on the approach spans of the Macdonald Bridge bike lane have deteriorated and must be replaced. Repairs have not been made since the bike lane opened in 1999.

The suspended spans of the sidewalk and bike lane were replaced as part of the Big Lift and are in very good condition.

How many people use the bike lane during the day versus overnight?

The average number of people who used the bike lane daily in both directions from 7pm until 5:30am from May to September in 2014* was 60. The average number of people who use the bike lane daily from 5:30am until 7pm from May to September 2014 was 458.

*2014 is the most recent year for which there is data. By the fall of 2021, we will have reliable analytics in place to provide current pedestrian and cyclist counts.

Will HHB offer a shuttle service?

In the past, we have provided a shuttle service when both the bike lane and sidewalk were closed. The sidewalk will remain open during the work on the bike lane, at which time cyclists can walk their bikes on the sidewalk. If someone needs to cross the bridge on a bike during the closures and is unable to walk across please email bridges@hdbc.ns.ca.

Why do I have to walk my bike on the sidewalk?

The Macdonald Bridge sidewalk and bike lane are 2.5m/8'-6" wide, which is not adequate or safe for pedestrians and cyclists to use. In addition to the width limitations, the bridge grade/slope is not safe to allow for walking and biking together.

How long will the closures be in place?

The bike lane will be closed for several months overnight Sunday to Thursday (five nights a week) from 7:00pm until 5:30am.