

NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD CHESTER CREEK CROSSING EMERGENCY REPAIR

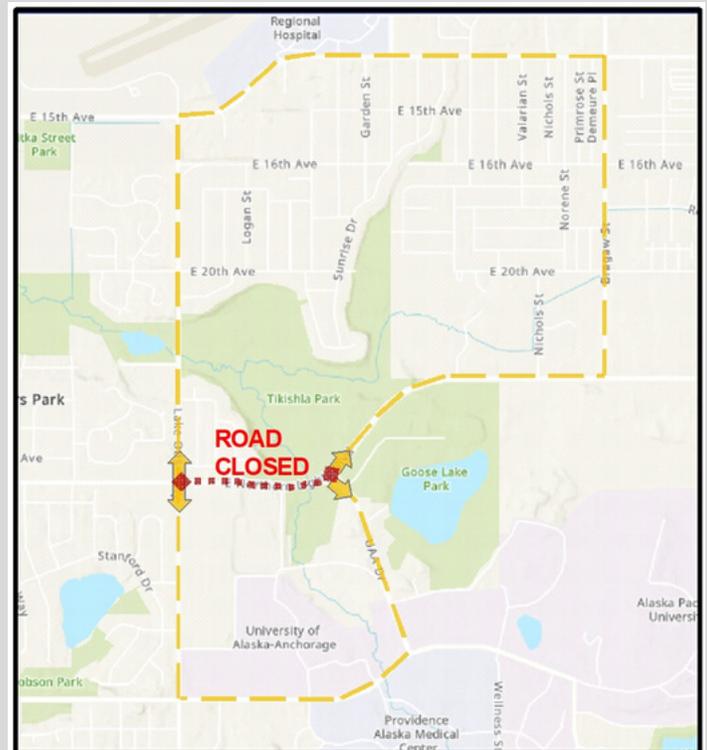


30-DAY ROAD CLOSURE

SUMMER 2020

Beginning July 5, 2020, both the eastbound and westbound lanes of Northern Lights Boulevard will be closed to traffic from Lake Otis Parkway to UAA Drive.

Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) work crews will be replacing a creek culvert that collapsed under the road. The road will be fully closed so that the creek can be diverted during construction.



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Northern Lights Boulevard Closure FAQs

What happened?

In December 2019, one of two steel creek culverts under Northern Lights Boulevard at Chester Creek began to collapse, creating a sinkhole in the road. The MOA completed emergency repairs in December to keep the road open to traffic. The culverts, however, are still damaged and need to be replaced.

What construction is happening now?

Starting in July, the MOA will completely replace the old steel culverts with a new, concrete box culvert. During construction, we will divert the creek and close down both the eastbound and westbound lanes to traffic between Lake Otis Parkway and UAA Drive.

When will Northern Lights Boulevard reopen?

We anticipate the road closure to last about 30 days, with Northern Lights Boulevard reopening in August.

Why didn't this work begin sooner?

A project of this size and complexity normally takes about two years to complete, from permitting and design through construction. We are operating on an accelerated schedule of approximately six months, so that we can reopen the road before winter. While we would have liked to begin construction earlier, it was not possible for us to design this project and fabricate the new culvert in less time.

Why do all lanes need to be closed?

Chester Creek flows through the culvert, and we need to divert the creek during construction. The creek is also an active salmon habitat. Under normal circumstances, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game would not allow construction while salmon are still running upstream. Due to the emergency nature of this project, Fish & Game is allowing us to proceed as long as the creek is diverted.

Was this earthquake related?

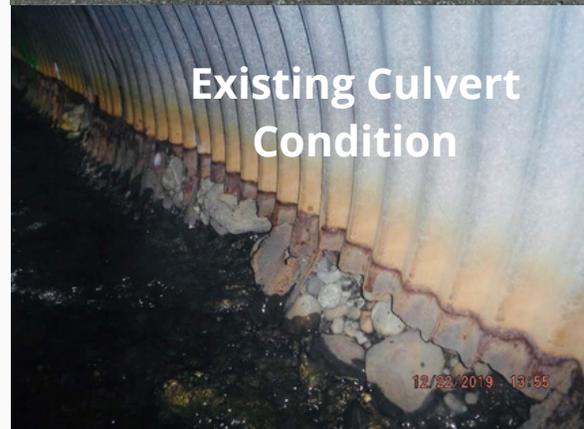
We can't say for sure if the November 2018 earthquake damaged this culvert, though it is safe to say that the earthquake certainly did not help. The culverts were originally built in 1981 and are beyond their useful lifespan. After the sinkhole formed in December 2019, MOA inspections showed significant corrosion and rust below the waterline of both culverts, which weakened them structurally. The new concrete culvert we are installing will not rust, will have a longer lifespan, and will be seismically more robust.

Timeline

DECEMBER 2019
Problem Identified

JANUARY 2020
Design start

JULY - AUGUST 2020
Construction
30-day road closure



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