

Dear landowner,

In April 2021, the Ministry of Highways announced this section of Highway 3 would be twinned. This kicked off the design work on safety and capacity improvements to Highway 3 from Highway 2 to the Shell River Bridge. This is a total distance of roughly eight kilometres.

We invite you to visit our project website to see the strategic design. The goal during design was to balance safety, travel speed, and access.

The new Highway 3 design includes:

- A four-lane divided highway with a concrete median barrier and lighting in the centre. This requires less overall width than a standard twinned highway, which significantly reduces the amount of land we need to buy.
- Reduced speed limits, which are required for maximum safety when using median barriers.
- Lower potential for collisions by replacing several existing access points with a small number of protected T intersections.
- Upgraded service roads.

Please visit the Highway 3 website for complete details:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/highway-3-twinning>

If you have a question, please reach out using the Contact Us tab at the top of the webpage.

Sincerely,

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this project being done?

This highway twinning project will improve safety for commuters on Highway 3. As traffic volumes increase near the City, the twinned highway will provide capacity for future growth.

How will the design affect me?

The design will make your commute safer with a number of improvements, including:

- Several highway access points will be removed and new service roads will be constructed to provide new access points.
- The highway will be widened from two lanes to four lanes, allowing safe passing opportunities.
- Speed limits will be reduced from 100 km/h to 90 km/h.

Why did you remove so many access points?

The highway has a number of design features that will make it safer for all motorists.

One of the safety features involves replacing several access points with a small number of protected T intersections. Having fewer intersections means the potential for collisions is also reduced.

Will my property be affected by the twinning?

The project was designed to fit within the existing highway right-of-way as much as possible. In some cases, a limited amount of additional property will be required for the highway or service roads.

We will be reaching out directly to the owners of land we need to buy.

Why was there limited consultation with landowners, business and the commuters who use Highway 3?

The RM of Buckland and the City of Prince Albert raised concerns about safety on the corridor. The Ministry has been hearing from the community for several years asking for twinning to make the highway safer.

To minimize land purchase the engineers are designing in a tight corridor which offers minimal flexibility.

If you have questions or concerns about the project, please reach out using the Contact Us tab at the top of the Highway 3 website.

Why are you reducing speed on the highway if it is now four lanes?

The speed limit is reduced because of the concrete barrier in the middle of the road. Circle Drive in southwest Saskatoon is a similar four lane road with a concrete barrier and is also 90 km/h.

The speed limit is 100 km/h on Highway 3. This will be lowered to 90 km/h after twinning is completed. It will take only an additional 30 seconds to drive through the corridor, and will eliminate the potential for head-on collisions. The lower speed limit and the concrete barrier will increase safety.

Why do you need concrete barriers between the lanes?

The concrete barrier will eliminate the potential for head-on collisions.

Why was the protected T-Intersection chosen for this project?

The main issue with intersections on a high-speed twinned highway is there is not enough room for turning vehicles to wait in the median without slowing or stopping. The protected T-intersection will alleviate this concern by improving traffic flow.

What is happening with the existing service roads?

Access to each individual residence and parcel will be maintained. We will rebuild and widen the existing frontage roads to new condition.

What kind of delays will I experience during construction?

Typical construction activities such as earthwork and paving will be required. Drivers will experience minor delays because of lower speed limits during construction. The highway will remain open during construction.

Updates to construction activities will be posted to the Highway Hotline, which can be viewed online at <https://hotline.gov.sk.ca/mobile/>