

# Program Update

January 2025



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Transit

Cariboo Road  
Recovery Projects

Changing weather patterns have hit the Cariboo particularly hard in recent years, contributing to hundreds of landslides and road washouts in 2020 and 2021. The Cariboo Road Recovery Projects are restoring access where feasible, benefiting tens of thousands of people who use these affected roads and highways.

To date, construction is complete or underway on the following five projects:

- Highway 97 at Cottonwood Hill
- Blackwater Road at Knickerbocker Road
- Kersley-Dale Landing Road
- Soda Creek-MacAlister Road
- Highway 97 at Cuisson Creek

Four other projects are in various stages of development. It was announced in August 2024 that a section of Quesnel-Hixon Road will be permanently closed, and the nearby Cottonwood River Canyon Bridge will be decommissioned. Safety improvements to the road network in the area are being evaluated.



**For the latest information please visit the individual project webpages.**

## Construction complete or underway:



*Aerial view of construction crews working to stabilize the slope alongside the affected section of Highway 97 at Cottonwood Hill.*

### Highway 97 at Cottonwood Hill

- A historic, 8.8-hectare slide reawakened in 2020, leading to a slide in 2021 which affected Highway 97 18 km north of Quesnel.
- This project includes multiple phases of construction; the first phase, stabilization along the Cottonwood River, is complete and the remaining work includes:
  - Realignment of approximately 1.3 km of Highway 97 through the project area, and removal of weight from the top of the slide (completion in 2025).
  - Slope stabilization below Highway 97 (planned to start in 2025).

### Blackwater Road at Knickerbocker Road

- The 14-hectare Knickerbocker Slide from 2020 remains active and, along with the North Fraser Slide, is affecting Blackwater Road.
- This project includes multiple phases of construction, the first underway:
  - Installation of wells and pipes to reduce subsurface water pressure, helping slow movement of the Knickerbocker Slide (started in 2024, anticipated completion in spring 2025).
  - Realignment of approximately 1.4 km of Blackwater Road and riverbank erosion protection works in the Fraser River (in planning and design for construction).

### Kersley-Dale Landing Road

- In November 2020, multiple slides totaling 1.3 hectares caused unstable slopes along Kersley-Dale Landing Road, making it unsafe to use. A temporary access road has been in place since December 2021.
- Construction on a new alignment, which will use Arnoldus Road, bypassing slide-prone areas, is scheduled to start as soon as spring 2025.
- The construction contract tender for the project was posted on BC Bid on December 31, 2024.

## Soda Creek-MacAlister Road

- A 1.3-hectare slide that occurred in 2020 near the community of Soda Creek remains active.
- The road was reopened after interim regrading work was completed in fall 2024, with enhanced monitoring of slide movement. Investigation of opportunities to improve the stability and resilience of Soda Creek-MacAlister Road continues.

## Highway 97 at Cuisson Creek

- Multiple slides in 2021 totalling 12.5 hectares posed erosion risks to Highway 97 at Cuisson Creek, approximately 46 km south of Quesnel.
- Highway shoulder protection and drainage improvements to enhance highway safety and stability were completed in 2024.

## Geotechnical investigation, engineering analysis and options development:

### Quesnel-Hydraulic Road

- Multiple historic slides totaling 13 hectares were reactivated in 2020, forcing the temporary closure of this local road. The road was later re-opened in 2022 with real-time monitoring of slide movement.
- Project technical work is nearing completion and a decision on next steps is anticipated in 2025.

### Bastin Road at Bastin Hill

- A 3.5-hectare slide in 2020 damaged a section of Bastin Road at Bastin Hill. The road is open with single-lane alternating traffic at reduced speeds.
- Project technical work is nearing completion and a decision on next steps is anticipated in 2025.

### Durrell Road

- A 5-hectare slide that occurred in 2021 caused Durrell Road to be closed to public travel through the slide area. Access to surrounding homes and businesses has been maintained with adjoining roads to Highway 97.
- Project technical work is nearing completion and a decision on next steps is anticipated in 2025.



Crews installing culverts as part of the surface water management on the Highway 20 at Hodgson/Dog Creek Road.

### Highway 20 at Hodgson/Dog Creek Road Project

- A slow-moving 55-hectare slide has impacted segments of Highway 20 and portions of adjacent side roads. Dog Creek Road has also been affected by an additional slide.
- A number of activities were completed in the project area in 2024, including Dog Creek Slide erosion mitigation construction, and upgrades to drainage infrastructure to support the movement of rainwater and snow melt through the slide area.
- A long-term mitigation solution for the Hodgson Slide is being determined and may require multi-jurisdictional involvement and participation between the City of Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District, Province and others.

## Project Updates

Please visit the following websites for the latest information:



Website notifications and project email sign up at [gov.bc.ca/cariboo](http://gov.bc.ca/cariboo)



Traffic advisories at [drivebc.ca](http://drivebc.ca)

## Get in Touch

If you have any additional questions, please get in touch with Greg Bruce, Program Director at:



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