QEII Renew

July 2025

Girder Beam Delivery and Installation
Frequently Asked Questions

Big Picture / Project Significance

1. **What are the structural girder beams and why are they important?**
   The structural girder beams are a major component of the new Acute Care Tower at the QEII Halifax Infirmary Expansion Project. They will create a structure over the loading and service area at the corner of Robie Street and Bell Road, allowing essential hospital operations to occur underneath while creating a new public space above. This innovative design helps maximize a constrained downtown site while supporting both hospital operations and community-focused public space.

2. **What will the finished area look like?**
   Once complete, the space above the structure will become a landscaped parkette featuring trees, seating areas, pathways and gathering spaces. The area is designed to create a more welcoming gateway to the Halifax Infirmary campus and provide a greener, more pedestrian-friendly experience at one of the city's busiest intersections.

3. **Why include a parkette as part of a hospital project?**
   Modern healthcare design recognizes that access to green space, natural light and outdoor environments can contribute to wellness, stress reduction and overall quality of life. The future parkette will provide:

   - Outdoor space for patients and families
   - Areas for healthcare workers to take breaks and recharge
   - Improved streetscape and public realm enhancements
   - Better connections between the hospital campus and the Halifax Common

   The design reflects a broader vision of creating not only a hospital, but a healthcare campus integrated into the surrounding community.

Community Impacts During Construction

4. **Why is Bell Road temporarily closing?**
   Bell Road will temporarily close between approximately 3:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on weekdays to allow crews to safely transport, lift and install the oversized girder beams. These closures are necessary to create a safe work zone for workers, motorists, pedestrians and hospital operations.

5. **Why are deliveries taking place in the early-morning hours?**
   The early-morning delivery window was selected to minimize impacts on:

   - Commuters
   - Transit users
   - Hospital operations
   - Emergency Department access
   - Nearby residents and businesses

   Scheduling deliveries during the lowest traffic period helps reduce overall disruption while allowing crews to safely complete each installation.

6. **What traffic impacts can the public expect?**
   Residents and commuters may encounter temporary detours and traffic adjustments during the early morning closure period. Most work will be completed before the morning rush hour begins, helping minimize impacts on daytime traffic. Traffic control personnel, police escorts and signage will be in place to guide motorists safely around the work zone.

7. **Will Emergency Department access be affected?**
   No. The Halifax Infirmary Emergency Department will remain accessible at all times. Temporary detours will be in place during the closure period, and the project team is working closely with hospital operations, emergency services and municipal partners to maintain safe and reliable access.

8. **Will there be noise?**
   Residents may notice temporary noise associated with truck deliveries, crane operations and construction equipment during the early morning work period. The project team will work to minimize unnecessary noise while maintaining the safety requirements necessary for heavy structural installation activities.

9. **How long will this work continue?**
   A total of 22 girder beams will be installed, with one beam delivered and installed per weekday over approximately 28 weekdays, weather permitting.

10. **What happens after the beams are installed?**
    Following installation, crews will begin constructing the structural deck and supporting infrastructure that will form the future parkette and public space above. Over time, the area will transition from a major construction zone into one of the defining public-facing features of the new Acute Care Tower and healthcare campus.