

Why wasn't the bridge completed in 12 months?

The 405 Improvement Project is using a construction method known as design-build, in which design and construction happen at the same time to help speed up the overall duration of the project.

The new McFadden Avenue bridge was being designed when we shared with the community that it would take approximately 12 months to construct, as most of the one-stage bridges on the project do.

However, the McFadden bridge's design is more complex than most of the bridges over I-405. Once that design was completed, estimates were that the McFadden bridge would take approximately 15 months.

The bridge was demolished in August 2018, so it's been more than 15 months. What's the delay?

There were an additional five months of delays because of heavy rain in winter 2019 and because we agreed to adjust our construction schedule for pile driving and compaction activities – which are loud and create heavy vibrations – around the surgeries scheduled at an adjacent medical facility.

Further complicating the issue is how narrow the area of the freeway is at McFadden. Because of the space constraints, the bridge sides and the center columns couldn't be constructed simultaneously. So, the sides and the new outside roadway and lanes had to be built and traffic shifted before the contractor could work on the center columns and the rest of the bridge.

Also, because of the space constraints, there were complex design issues related to utilities on Sugar Drive and drainage on the freeway that needed to be resolved, which added three more months to the schedule.

So, when is McFadden going to open?

McFadden is now anticipated to open to traffic in late September 2020. That's about a month later than the updated estimate that we shared with the community in our status meeting last year. The additional month of delay is a result of winter 2020 weather that affected construction of the bridge sides and substructure. Also, the complexity of the bridge's design and how it curves over the freeway required the contractor to take additional time to prepare for the recent deck pour, which was delayed about one week.

What are the remaining activities?

In the coming weeks, after the concrete bridge deck has cured and the bridge has been stressed to reinforce the concrete, crews will remove the falsework. That's the temporary timber and steel system that was installed to support the bridge during construction.



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McFadden Avenue Bridge Update

Meanwhile, the bridge approaches and the barriers on the side of the bridge will be constructed, and the curb, gutter and sidewalks will be poured. Also, electrical work will continue at McFadden and Sugar Drive, where new traffic signals will be installed.

Other activities include construction of bridge monuments, asphalt paving, installation of bridge fencing and restriping.

While this work is primarily scheduled during the day, Monday through Saturday, there is potential for night work on weeknights.

Whom should residents contact if they have questions?

Contact the Community Outreach Team by emailing 405project@octa.net, or by calling the project helplines. For English and Spanish, call 888-400-8994; for Vietnamese, call 888-662-6569. You may also message us on social media.

For more information, please contact the 405 Community Outreach Team: 📞 English & Español: 888-400-8994 📞 Tiếng Việt: 888-662-6569

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