

Construction begins on \$8.8-million underpass enhancement



ERIKA STARK, CALGARY HERALD

More from Erika Stark, Calgary Herald

Published on: July 14, 2015 | Last Updated: July 14, 2015 6:04 PM MDT



8st underpass renderings

A busy downtown Calgary underpass will undergo an \$8.8-million facelift beginning Wednesday.

When complete, the 8th Street S.W. underpass will feature new sidewalks, LED lighting, public art and a new paint job.

The “much needed” renovations to the underpass, which links the Beltline and downtown, will make the area safer and more attractive, said Ben Barrington, the Centre City implementation program manager.



He said they want users to feel safe and enjoy the artistic and design features.

The bridges and retaining walls will be a reflective white, and public art will be installed between the bridges.

Motorists and the 8,700 people who use the underpass each day will encounter some sidewalk and road closures as construction gets underway. Crews will first work on the east side of the walkway, which will be closed along with a northbound lane of traffic. Once that side is complete, construction will move to the west side.

The project is the first phase of the city’s 8th Street S.W. Corridor Public Realm Plan, which aims to improve the experience of pedestrians using the street.

Most of the enhancements should be complete by the end of the year, with the final touches done next spring.

