

April Progress Report

The beach was once again open to everyone on 1 April. At 7:00 in the morning, the Site Caretaker, Arie van Delft, together with Alderman Daan Binnendijk and Water Board member, Hans Plücker, opened a footbridge. Unfortunately, the festive opening was overshadowed by an accident that occurred on 2 April. That afternoon, an open-back lorry crashed into the northern footbridge. Four people were injured in the accident, which we deeply regret. The investigation by the labour inspectorate and the construction consortium into the cause of the accident is ongoing.

The four temporary bridges that provide pedestrian access to the beach from the town centre and along the Noordboulevard have now all been completed. Extra safety measures have been implemented to ensure the safety of the bridges:

- Traffic guards will be deployed for wide, heavy and high vehicles (such as large cranes).
- The traffic guards can briefly close footbridges, if necessary, for safety reasons. It is expected that this will be the case very occasionally.
- Extra concrete barriers will be placed to provide added protection to the bridges.
- The headroom will be limited by means of a vehicle height portal at a number of bridges, the sand depot and the entrance to the construction site. A signalling system will be located at the beginning and end of the vehicle height portal, issuing a warning if a vehicle touches the top of the portal.
- Every two weeks, drivers will be given safety instructions about the footbridges.
- A sanction policy has been implemented for speeding (driving faster than 15 km/h), reckless driving on the construction road or driving with the tailgate open.
- Drivers who are familiar with the work site will be used as much as possible.

Handicapped accessibility

The footbridges are not accessible for the handicapped. The beach along the Zuidboulevard can be reached via the beach crossings through the newly reconstructed dune area. The northern beach (Noorderstrand) and the southern beach (Zuiderstrand) remain accessible via the usual beach access points. In the next few months, the handicapped, carts and prams can access the beach in the following ways:

- Via the access points that have already been completed (i.e. at the Noorderstrand and the Zuiderstrand).
- Via the service road that starts at the beach access across from the Vuurbaak / the Zeepaviljoen and runs behind the pavilions over the beach up to the town centre.
- In consultation with the pavilion owners, handicapped visitors can be picked up and dropped off in front of the pavilions along the Noordboulevard (near the temporary bridges).

Parking garage

Construction of the parking garage starts at the beginning of May. Before that time, we will carry out preparatory work, such as further excavation of the parking garage site, installing temporary drainage and demolition work (such as the police station and the parking spaces). The parking garage will be built between the Dijk-in-Duin and the Boulevard, and construction will be carried out from South to North. The garage will be built in several phases:

- The dune will be excavated. Temporary drainage will be installed first to ensure the site is dry. In order to reach the bottom of the garage, excavators will remove nearly five metres of sand. To further shore up the walls of the construction pit, a temporary vertical barrier of sandbags will be installed on the side of the Boulevard. The foundation of the garage will then be poured.

- The walls, columns and floor panels will be installed. Each component will be made in advance in the factory. Reinforcing bars will then be fitted on the roof, after which we will pour the concrete. The roof will need to cure for at least 15 days before sand can be applied for the new moulding. Meanwhile, the other work activities for the parking garage will just carry on.
- Once the concrete on the roof has completely hardened, the dune will be reinstalled and arranged back on top of the garage. The temporary sandbag barrier will be removed.
- Finally, the parking garage will be laid out and prepared for use. For example, we will perform the finishing work, install equipment and lighting, lay paving, create shafts and install the lifts.

Starting in May, you can get a good view of the construction work on the parking garage from a number of vantage points in the dunes on the sea side. During our construction work in the coming months, the promenade on the sea side of the Boulevard will be narrowed.

Spatial planning of the coastal strip

The spatial planning of the dunes has been completely for the most part to the south and on the sea side of the dike. Of course, the final layout around the parking garage can only be installed when the parking garage has been completed. This can be started when the concrete on the roof has fully cured.