

Latta Bridge (B027) Replacement

Environmental Impact Assessment

RECOMMENDATION

That Executive Committee recommend to City Council:

That the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Latta Bridge (B027) Replacement project, as outlined in Attachment 1 (December 1, 2021), Integrated Infrastructure Services report IIS00478 be approved.

Report Purpose

Council decision required.

This report requests City Council's approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the replacement of the existing Latta Bridge, along Jasper Avenue between 90 Street and 91 Street, as part of the Bridge Renewal Program.

Executive Summary

- This report requests City Council's approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) included in Attachment 1 for the replacement of the existing Latta Bridge along Jasper Avenue between 91 Street and 90 Street. Latta Bridge Replacement (the Project) will be reconstructed as part of the Bridge Renewal Program between 2022 and 2023.
- The EIA for the Project concludes that any potential adverse effects related to the construction of the replacement bridge can be tempered by applying appropriate mitigation measures during construction.
- Approval of this report demonstrates the City's commitment to project environmental reviews, environmental permitting, achieving an environmentally sound design, and achieving the City's environmental stewardship outcome to ensure the City of Edmonton's environmental objectives are met during the construction of this project.

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REPORT

Latta Bridge is a five-span steel structure, extending from 90 Street to 91 Street along Jasper Avenue. The bridge was rehabilitated in 1977 and 2004 and now requires replacement to maintain safe operation.

Latta Bridge and adjacent lands needed for replacement activities are wholly located within the boundaries of the City of Edmonton's North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (NSRV ARP) (Bylaw 7188) and, therefore, trigger the need for an environmental review pursuant to that Bylaw.

The replacement bridge will occupy a similar footprint as the existing bridge with a slightly wider east side to accommodate a wider Shared-Use Path (SUP) sidewalk and will be constructed with barriers that will accommodate the safety of all users.

The enclosed EIA (Attachment 1) outlines current conditions in the project area, evaluates potential risks, and identifies adverse impacts, focused on construction activities that must be eliminated, minimized or mitigated through design, landscaping and construction measures.

Some of the potential impacts and mitigations identified in the EIA include:

- Slope instability
 - Impacts include the presence of voids under the bridge and ongoing slope instability at the south ravine slope.
 - Mitigations include foundation grouting and installation of a pile wall.
- Soil contaminants:
 - Impacts include the presence of contaminated soils.
 - Mitigations include the development of a Construction Management Plan with handling procedures for contaminated soil when excavation, soil disturbance or vegetation removal is planned within the areas of known soil contamination.
- Vegetation loss, tree damage, and invasive species:
 - Impacts include vegetation loss resulting from construction activities.
 - Mitigations include minimizing native plant community removal in the project area and the development of a landscape/reclamation plan for revegetation with native species similar to existing conditions.
 - Other mitigations include the development of a Tree Protection Plan and cleaning equipment before moving into the project area will help reduce weed species' potential transfer and spread.
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat disturbance and loss:
 - Impacts include relatively small, localized areas of natural habitat that will be cleared adjacent to the existing bridge prior to demolition and new bridge construction. Mitigations include replanting native plant communities.
 - Further mitigations include a review of the timing of vegetation clearing and tree removal to minimize disruption to wildlife, including scheduling demolition and vegetation clearing to occur outside the breeding bird period to reduce the risk of roosting individual bats.

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- Further mitigation includes ensuring the contractor's Environmental Construction Operations (ECO) plan includes worker/wildlife encounter protocols.
- Ecological connectivity/wildlife movement
 - The proposed replacement bridge will maintain similar conditions for wildlife passage compared to existing conditions. No additional mitigation measures are required.
- Historical Resources
 - The project received Historical Resources Act Approval from Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women (ACMSW) on December 8, 2020, indicating no further studies are required and the project is not anticipated to affect known historical resources.
 - If historical or archaeological resources are discovered during construction, all work will be immediately suspended and ACMSW will be contacted.

Budget/Financial Implications

The replacement of the Latta Bridge is funded through the City's Bridge Renewal Program (CM-24-0000) as part of the 2019-2022 Capital Budget. The total anticipated costs for the design and construction of the Latta Bridge Replacement is \$19.4 million.

Legal Implications

Section 3.4.3 of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan requires City Council to approve the attached EIA (Attachment 1) for the planned construction of the Latta Bridge replacement before the proposed development can proceed to construction.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT

Stakeholder engagements were completed during the preliminary design phase. The project team met with stakeholders, including adjacent property and business owners, internal City agencies, environmental organizations, and river valley user groups. The project team invited a total of 18 stakeholders/stakeholder groups to a meeting to share information about the Latta Bridge Replacement project.

The following stakeholder meetings were held, while other invited stakeholders appreciated receiving information they could communicate with their members or organization:

- Paths for People
- Royal Canadian Legion
- River Valley Conservation Coalition
- Edmonton Arts Council
- Boyle Street Outreach Team
- River Valley Alliance
- Edmonton Historical Board
- Community Leagues (McCauley, Riverdale, and Boyle Street)
- Residences and Businesses

The following key information was discussed and shared with the stakeholders:

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- Access during construction,
- Multi-modal connectivity,
- Traffic calming and pedestrian safety,
- Displacement and safety of vulnerable populations,
- Tree and vegetation removal, and
- History and art.

As a result of these stakeholder meetings, the project team was provided with local and contextual knowledge that will be considered when completing the detailed design. Stakeholders expressed support for the construction of the Latta Bridge Replacement project.

The project team was asked to provide information regarding detours and construction access, continue to update and maintain the project websites, and include education and awareness training for all on-site personnel regarding how to engage with and respond to the diverse people that they may encounter during construction activities.

The project team is committed to ensuring communications and information sharing with residents to further raise awareness prior to construction through the use of the project website (www.edmonton.ca/lattabridge) and utilizing the City's Neighbourhood Resource Coordinators. Details of the pre-construction communication plans will be developed closer to construction.

GBA+

In addition to the stakeholder engagement activities noted above, which allowed the project team to gain insights on different perspectives on the Latta Bridge Replacement project in order to mitigate or remove barriers to equity and to support equality of outcomes, a specific example of GBA+ consideration is as follows:

- Who is impacted?
 - Vulnerable people experiencing homelessness living in the river valley, people who gather under Latta bridge.
- Why are they impacted?
 - Construction related activities, including bridge demolition and securing a worksite, will displace any people who use the area under and near the bridge.
- What is the impact?
 - Displacement of any people who use the area under and near the bridge.

The equity measures which have been identified and will be implemented include ensuring the safety of vulnerable people during construction. The City and the Boyle Street Outreach Team propose daily site sweeps to make sure no one has entered or is sleeping within the construction site. At the same time, education and awareness training will be provided for construction workers to help them understand how to interact respectfully and appropriately with vulnerable people found in the construction site or laydown areas. The City committed to continuing this conversation, including the development of a plan to support vulnerable people displaced by construction activities in this area.

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Latta Bridge (B027) Replacement Environmental Impact Assessment Pursuant to Bylaw 7188 Report