

### Edmonton-Strathcona County Pedestrian Bridge

- Requests approval of amendments to Capital Profile 20-20-2024 Edmonton-Strathcona County Pedestrian Bridge.
- Administration has completed the planning and design phase and is seeking further funding for the delivery phase of the project.
- Based upon the current design, the overall project is anticipated to cost \$38.6 million (-20 per cent to +30 per cent), of which \$9.8 million or 25 per cent is funded by the City of Edmonton.

### Project Background

The River Valley Alliance (RVA) is a not-for-profit organization formed of an alliance of seven municipalities with the aim of connecting people to and through the river valley. The RVA works to secure provincial and federal funding, and works with municipalities to advance capital projects in support of the shared goal of developing a continuous and connected regional trail system along the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

The RVA's guiding strategic plan, *A Plan of Action for the Capital Region River Valley Park*, articulates a vision for a continuous, connected park system in the Edmonton Metropolitan region. The plan emphasizes building a continuous trail system within the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

The RVA's aim of connecting people to and through the river valley aligns with several of the Big City Moves, including:

- Greener As We Grow - river valley connectivity is enhanced through this project and other RVA projects by ensuring Edmonton and our regional neighbours are connected. This in turn supports transition to greener modes of transportation and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- A Community of Communities - a connected river valley trail system supports increased use of active transportation and moves toward increasing number of trips made by active transportation.

Currently, northeast Edmonton and western Strathcona County are not well served by active transportation infrastructure and recreational opportunities within the North Saskatchewan River Valley. While recent projects have served to improve access and connectivity, the North Saskatchewan River remains a significant barrier towards the vision of a continuous, connected park system.

To support the enhancement of local and regional connectivity and access to the North Saskatchewan River Valley, provide enhanced opportunities for recreation and celebration, as well as advance other policy priorities, the RVA, the City of Edmonton

and Strathcona County have identified an opportunity to build an active mode connection between the two municipalities. The location of the bridge was strategically located at the convergence of a number of trails and will provide access to future regional park projects.

In the Fall of 2020, the City of Edmonton approved \$4.4 million in funding (including \$1.5 million external funding) in Capital Profile 20-20-2024 Edmonton-Strathcona County Pedestrian Bridge to advance the planning and design of this important connection. The additional funding required for the delivery of this project was also included in the subsequent Supplemental Capital Budget Adjustment.

Attachment 8 provides maps and renderings of the project.

### Financial Update

Since the approval of the Capital Profile, Administration has advanced planning and design in conjunction with robust community engagement programs. The project has now reached the Project Development and Delivery Model (PDDM) Checkpoint 3 with the completion of the preliminary engineering phase of the project.

Administration has been working collaboratively with the RVA and Strathcona County throughout the planning and design process. In 2020, prior to commencing planning and design work, a feasibility study was completed for the project which identified the general location of the bridge and approximate costs. At the time of the feasibility study, the project was anticipated to cost approximately \$27 million (-50 per cent to +100 per cent). Based on this order of magnitude cost from the feasibility stage and general apportionment for other projects completed with funding from the RVA, apportionment of project costs was expected to consist of:

- 66.67 per cent (two-thirds) contribution from the RVA;
- 16.67 per cent (one-sixth) contribution from Strathcona County; and
- 16.67 per cent (one-sixth) contribution from the City of Edmonton.

As the project has developed, costs for the new bridge have been refined with the increased level of design. Based upon the current design, the overall project is anticipated to cost \$38.6 million (-20 per cent to +30 per cent).

Negotiations have been underway with the RVA and Strathcona County to define funding contributions. At this time, the RVA has a total of \$19 million in funding available to be contributed toward the project by reallocating \$3 million of grant funding originally anticipated to go towards Touch the Water. The reallocation of Touch the Water delivery funding supports the RVA and regional priorities. Future

## Attachment 7

prioritization of Touch the Water delivery will be considered as part of the 2023-2026 Capital Budget process in consultation with the RVA.

\$19 million represents 50 per cent of the total estimated project cost. Remaining costs will be shared equally between the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County, increasing their respective share to a revised apportionment of project costs of:

- 50 per cent contribution from the RVA;
- 25 per cent (one-quarter) contribution from Strathcona County; and
- 25 per cent (one-quarter) contribution from the City of Edmonton.

An amendment to Capital Profile 20-20-2024 Edmonton-Strathcona County Pedestrian Bridge is required to advance the project through the final stages of design and construction. The amendment recognizes funding of \$19 million from the RVA and \$9.8 million from Strathcona County. The City of Edmonton's funding contribution of \$9.8 million is comprised of \$2.9 million Pay-As-You-Go (previously approved by Council), and an additional \$6.9 million requested with this Capital Profile amendment.

While the project is being advanced with funding contributions from the RVA, Strathcona County, and the City of Edmonton, the bridge will be owned by the City of Edmonton. Agreements are being developed to outline ongoing responsibilities with respect to operations and maintenance between the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County. The Operating Impact of Capital for this project will be included in the 2023-2026 operating budget for discussion based on the agreed upon responsibilities of the City of Edmonton. Strathcona County will be formally requesting the funding for their remaining contribution to the capital project through a request to Strathcona County Council on April 26, 2022. An agreement with Strathcona County outlining the terms of the funding is in development.

## Summary of Funding Requirements

<i>All figures in \$ millions</i>	Previously Approved	This Budget Request	Total Project if Approved	% of Overall Project
<b>DESIGN</b>				
River Valley Alliance	1.2	0	1.2	
Strathcona County	0.3	0	0.3	
<b>Subtotal - Partnership Funding for Design</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	
City of Edmonton - PAYGO	2.9	0	2.9	
<b>SUBTOTAL DESIGN</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	
<b>DELIVERY</b>				
Funding from Partnerships				
River Valley Alliance				
<i>River Valley Alliance - New Funding</i>	0	15.4	15.4	
<i>River Valley Alliance - Reallocation within Approved Profiles</i>		2.4	2.4	
<b>River Valley Alliance Subtotal</b>	0	17.8	17.8	
Strathcona County	0	9.5	9.5	
<b>Subtotal - Partnership Funding for Delivery</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>27.3</b>	
City of Edmonton Funding				
New PAYGO Funding	0	6.4	6.4	
Reallocation of PAYGO within Approved Profiles	0	0.5	0.5	
Subtotal - City of Edmonton Funding for Delivery	0	6.9	6.9	
<b>SUBTOTAL DELIVERY</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>34.2</b>	
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>				
River Valley Alliance	1.2	17.8	19.0	49%
Strathcona County	0.3	9.5	9.8	25%
<b>Subtotal - External Partners</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>75%</b>
City of Edmonton - PAYGO	2.9	6.9	9.8	25%
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Community Insight

The community outreach for this project involved comprehensive stakeholder engagement, public engagement and engagement with Indigenous communities with historical, cultural connections and Treaty rights within the North Saskatchewan river valley. This included outreach to the public and stakeholders, including businesses, adjacent landowners, environmental organizations, cycling groups, community groups and recreation associations to share project information and gather input to help shape the bridge plan and design. The engagement activities included numerous virtual and in-person meetings with key stakeholders in the area surrounding the proposed bridge.

Two online public engagement sessions were held for this project. These included a session in April 2021 to introduce the project and gather initial impressions and input, followed by a second session in June 2021 to obtain feedback on the draft concept design. Public engagement surveys and presentation materials were made available on the City and the County's project websites. Over 1,000 responses have been provided to the surveys for this project. Online material is updated regularly with the latest, up-to-date information. Based on feedback, the project will improve river/water access at the Riverside Nature Trail site, add interpretive signage and consider washrooms on the Strathcona County side and parking needs among other elements.

Indigenous engagement has been a critical factor in planning and designing this pedestrian bridge. Four virtual workshops were carried out in January 2021 to share preliminary project information and gather input and knowledge for the footbridge project. Indigenous communities were invited to view potentially impacted areas and receive more details about the footbridge. Site visits were held in July 2021. Facilitators and note takers were assigned to each community to capture on-site recommendations and perspectives. Attendees were of diverse ages, abilities and genders, including 19 Indigenous Nations and communities, represented by 55 members who participated in the sessions. Based on the feedback, the City will perform preservation and protection measures for wildlife and plants during construction, consider parking needs as well as other elements.

A public event was also held in March 2022 to share the preliminary design with the public for feedback. Future opportunities will include further information sharing prior to the start of construction. A pre-construction public information session is planned for mid 2022 to share key project highlights, including details on expected construction activities and trail closures that will affect the public, along with how trail traffic will be managed throughout construction.