

Groat Road Bridges Rehabilitation Project

Environmental Impact Assessment

Recommendation

That Executive Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the Environmental Impact Assessment, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the November 28, 2017, Integrated Infrastructure Services Report CR_5152, be approved.

Executive Summary

This report requests City Council's approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Groat Road Bridges Rehabilitation project, in order to proceed to construction. The Environmental Impact Assessment for this site contains a summary of the potential impacts on the environment resulting from the project in addition to the positive aspects of the project as well as mitigation strategies. Approval of this report demonstrates the City's commitment to environmental project reviews, environmental permitting, achieving an environmentally sound design, and ensuring that environmental objectives are met during the construction of this project.

Report

In 2014, Administration conducted condition assessments of the three bridges in the vicinity of Groat Road and River Valley Road:

- Groat Bridge over the North Saskatchewan River;
- Groat Road over Victoria Park Road, and,
- Emily Murphy Park Road over Groat Road.

The assessments indicated the three bridges required capital funded rehabilitation. Following the condition assessments, preliminary design commenced and was completed at the end of December 2016. Detailed design was completed in October 2017 with construction anticipated to commence in the spring or summer of 2018. Additional roadway renewal is being completed under this same construction contract; however, environmental clearances related to the roadway work have been obtained under separate approval.

In accordance with the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan (3.4.3) the Groat Road Bridges Rehabilitation Project is subject to an environmental impact screening assessment (Attachment 1, Schedule D) and that the identified adverse impacts be eliminated, minimized or mitigated through design and landscaping measures.

The Environmental Impact Assessment contains a summary of potential impacts on the physical and biological environment resulting from the implementation of the project elements referenced in the report. The Assessment provides mitigation measures to ensure the project will not result in any significant adverse impacts on the environment. The location of the affected three bridges is identified on page six of Attachment 1.

The Environmental Impact Assessment also highlights several positive aspects of the project:

- Bridge improvements will enhance user safety, functionality and extend the service life of the structures.
- Bridge improvements will improve the aesthetics, enhancing near and long-distance views of the Groat Road river bridge.

Budget/Financial Implications

Funding for the Groat Road Bridges Rehabilitation Project was approved under the Groat Road over N. Sask River capital profile (12-66-1044) as part of the 2015-2018 Capital Budget.

Legal Implications

The *North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan* - Bylaw 7188 requires City Council to approve an environmental impact assessment.

Public Engagement

Public engagement on this project, in accordance with City Policy C593, was supported by information sharing and included:

- Individual external stakeholder consultations
- Individual internal stakeholder consultations including Civic Events & Festivals (ITU, Tour of Alberta, Heritage Festival, etc.) and other City groups
- Online and in-person survey forms from information session #1
- Indigenous consultation
- Environmental update on impact assessment information boards at public information session #1
- A project website

The project website was initiated in spring 2016 and has been updated on a regular basis as the project has evolved, including: prior to and after the information session in 2016; in advance of historical resource field work in 2016 and 2017; prior to utility relocation activities in 2017.

Individual stakeholder consultation has occurred throughout the project, including area recreational clubs, institutions, and private businesses. These were opportunities for the stakeholders to learn more about the project and have their concerns addressed.

The information sharing session was held in November 2016 with 54 members of the public in attendance. Responses from the comment forms varied, with some responders supporting the project as necessary rehabilitation. No environmental concerns were raised.

In conjunction with the Indigenous Relations Office, Administration has had ongoing discussions with Indigenous communities and First Nations about the project.

A pre-construction information session will be held in Q1 of 2018 once the detailed construction schedule and construction staging plans are submitted by the contractor. Details will be available on the project website at that time.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): The City of Edmonton's operations are environmentally sustainable.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Sustainable infrastructure is delivered that meets environmental standards and optimizes life cycle of deliverables	Environmental Impact Study is conducted for each proposed development on public land	100%	100% of all proposed development on public land within the Plan area of Bylaw 7188 (see section 3.5.3) undergoes an Environmental Impact Study.

Risk Assessment

Risk Element	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Score (with current mitigations)	Current Mitigations	Potential Future Mitigations
Environmental assessment is denied or delayed	Bridge improvements will not be implemented Bridges may	Unlikely - 2	Major - 3	Low - 6	Studies completed to ensure proposed project is planned and implemented to	

	need to be closed to protect public safety				ensure minimal project impacts.	
Environmental	Potential impacts as identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment become realized	Unlikely - 2	Minor - 1	Low -2	Recommendations regarding mitigation of environmental impacts in the Environmental Impact Assessment have been reviewed by Administration to ensure completeness.	Mitigation measures will be implemented by Contractor during construction of project.
Environmental Permits	Bridge Permits will not be obtained in a timely manner	Likely - 4	Major -3	Medium - 12	Pre-submit as many permit requirements as possible early in the project. Tender the project in a timely manner and work with the Contractor to submit the remaining requirements early in the Contract,	

Attachments

1. Groat Road Bridges Rehabilitation Project: Groat Road Bridge over the North Saskatchewan River (B059), Groat Road Bridge over Victoria Park Road (B060) and Emily Murphy Park Road Bridge over Groat Road (B099) [Environmental Impact Assessment](#)

Others Reviewing this Report

- T. Burge, CFO and Deputy City Manager Financial and Corporate Services
- C. Campbell, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- D. Jones, Deputy City Manager, City Operations