

Mill Creek Ravine Pedestrian Bridges Project

Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study

Recommendation

That the Urban Planning Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the Mill Creek Ravine Pedestrian Bridges Replacement Project Environmental Impact Assessment, and Site Location Study, as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 of the October 13, 2020, Integrated Infrastructure Services Report IIS00031, be approved.
2. That the location of the Mill Creek Pedestrian Bridges, as outlined in Attachment 2 of the October 13, 2020, Integrated Infrastructure Services report IIS00031, be deemed essential and approved.

Executive Summary

This report requests City Council's approval of the Mill Creek Ravine Pedestrian Bridge Replacements Project (the Project) Environmental Impact Assessment as per Attachment 1, which includes the Site Location Study (Attachment 2). The Environmental Impact Assessment for this Project 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

The pedestrian bridges, as outlined in Attachment 1, between 34 Street and 50 Street have deteriorated progressively to the point where maintenance activities are unable to correct deficiencies and replacement is required. Following the condition assessments, preliminary design was completed in the spring of 2020. Detailed design will be completed in October 2020 with construction anticipated to begin in spring 2021.

In accordance with section 3.4.3 of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, the Project is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment and the identified adverse impacts must be eliminated, minimized or mitigated through

design, landscaping and construction measures. On March 5, 2020, Administration determined that replacement of the existing bridges would require an Environmental Impact Assessment and Site Location Study, under Bylaw 7188, to be reviewed and approved by City Council. The locations of the bridges are provided on Page 3 of Attachment 1 and the Site Location Study is outlined under attachment 2.

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 Environmental Impact Assessment also highlighted several positive aspects of the project:

- The heights of all bridges will be raised, and the abutments have been relocated further from the centre of the channel, providing additional freeboard and a larger cross-sectional area compared to what is currently present. This should encourage fewer potential backwater effects and alleviate flooding concerns in the valley.
- The widths of nearly all bridges will be expanded and the abutments will be moved further from the centre channel with slight increases in the span-length of some bridges, resulting in additional in-stream habitat compared to what is currently present.
- New bridges will reduce tripping hazards and extend the lifespan of the crossings, leading to a more positive recreational experience for users, and extending the service life of the structures.
- Structural and surface deterioration of the bridges is evident to users and replacement of the bridges will enhance the visual appearance of the bridges

Budget/Financial Implications

Funding for the project was approved under the Transportation: Bridges & Auxiliary Structures - Renewal capital profile (CM-24-0000) as part of the 2019-2022 Capital Budget. The current projected cost is estimated to be \$3.55 million for all 11 pedestrian bridges.

Legal Implications

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

proposed development can proceed. Further, Bylaw 7188 requires that the location of the Mill Creek Ravine Bridges within the North Saskatchewan River Valley be deemed essential and approved by City Council prior to construction.

Public Engagement

Public engagement was not required to support this project based on the nature of the work. The project was considered primarily technical in nature and centred around the functional replacement of the bridges, unlike other bridge replacements in Mill Creek, which were historical railway trestle bridges.

Although public engagement was not carried out for this project, communications and information sharing will bring awareness about the work. A public information session will be held prior to construction, which is currently anticipated to take place in late 2020 or early 2021. This project will take an advisory approach through the use of a pre-construction public information session. The purpose of this event will be:

- To inform stakeholders and nearby residents of the Mill Creek Pedestrian Bridges Replacement Project design and construction details;
- To share the expected construction activities and trail closures that will be affecting the public, including how trail traffic will be managed or redirected throughout construction; and
- To share with stakeholders the methods the City will be using to share project information and updates.

The public information will be advertised by free-standing road signage placed at yet to be determined strategic locations that permit adherence to COVID-19 pandemic public gathering restrictions. The information presented at the public information session will also be available online at the City of Edmonton’s website.

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 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 need to be closed to protect public safety	Unlikely - 2	Major - 3	Low - 6	EIA study is completed to ensure the proposed project is planned and implemented to ensure minimal project impacts.	n/a
Environmental Permits	Environmental Permits will not be obtained in a timely manner	Unlikely - 2	Major - 3	Low - 6	Environmental Permit applications have been submitted and received approvals to date. No foreseeable hold ups are present on regulatory items.	Tender the project in a timely manner and work with the Contractor to submit the remaining requirements early in the Contract,
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 the Contractor during construction of the project. Typical mitigation measures are well understood during construction.

Attachments

1. Mill Creek Ravine Pedestrian Bridge Replacements (B304-314)- Environmental Impact Assessment. Final Report.
2. Site Location Study

Others Reviewing this Report

- G. Cebryk, Deputy City Manager, City Operations

- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development
- C. Owen, Deputy City Manager, Communications and Engagement
- R. Smyth, Deputy City Manager, Citizen Services
- B. Andriachuk, City Solicitor