

# CR\_6752

## Attachment 2

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**Project name:**  
Lansdowne Stair and Trail

**Project ref:**  
AECOM Project 60562757

**From:**  
Brian Nolan

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## Memo

Pursuant to the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan, all proposals for the development of a major facility that is publicly owned or is developed on public lands shall be subject to a Site Location Study detailing costs, and social, environmental and institutional constraints which make a River Valley location essential. AECOM Canada Ltd. (AECOM) was retained by the City of Edmonton (City) to prepare this Site Location Study for Lansdowne Stair and Trail Project (the Project).

### Project Name

Lansdowne Stair and Trail.

### Project Description

The Lansdowne Stair and Trail is located approximately 10 kilometers (km) southwest of downtown Edmonton in the Whitemud Ravine North. Lansdowne Drive bounds the Project to the north, Whitemud Drive Right of Way to the South, Whitemud Park to the east and west. An existing informal earthen trail (goat track) connects Lansdowne Drive to the existing paved shared-use path running parallel to Whitemud Drive. The Project was identified by Lansdowne Building Great Neighbourhoods stakeholder engagement feedback in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The Project entails the installation of a formal 3.0 m wide shared-use asphalt path connecting Lansdowne Drive to the existing paved shared-use path adjacent Whitemud Drive via a wooden stair on the slope.

### Project Scope

The existing informal earthen trail is not listed on the City's trail inventory. The Project involves upgrading the informal trail by installing a paved asphalt multi-use path and wooden stair. The formalised trail is a Major Facility as defined in the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan and will be added to the City's trail inventory a permanent trail.

#### Figure 1. Figure A - Stair and Trail Alignment

Preferred Option will be included on the site location study.

## Location Analysis and Justification

*What other locations were considered for this project including other river valley and non river valley locations?*

The need for this Project was identified during the Lansdowne Neighbourhood Renewal public engagement. The City considered to leave the informal earthen trail as is, however, there is strong public support for a formal connection.

*Could the proposed project reasonably function at a location outside of the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan boundary?*

Residents of and visitors currently use the informal earthen trail to access the River Valley. Not completing the Project could lead to an increase of informal trails as seen elsewhere in Edmonton's River Valley.

*Is the project dependent on either the river valley and ravine location or the users of the park system?*

The City of Edmonton Urban Parks Management Plan (UPMP) guides the design, construction, maintenance, and use of the River Valley. The Project will set out to reinforce the UPMP framework by:

- Connecting parks, other public open spaces and linking river valley experiences.
- Improving connectivity to the River Valley and Ravine Park system.
- Providing a combination of surfaces: asphalt and timber.
- Providing views and vistas into the River Valley.

The design for the Project has been developed with reference to the UPMP and the overall vision of the document: *Edmonton's parks, trails, river valley and natural areas connect Edmontonians to their community, to the environment and to one another* (UPMP, City of Edmonton 2006).

## Opportunities and Constraints Analysis

*Do the constraints (financial, social, environmental, institutional) limit the feasibility of locating the project outside of the river valley?*

The existence of the informal earthen trail indicates the popularity of this connection from Lansdowne Drive to the River Valley. The Project will restore a modified and disturbed land cover and prevent further vegetation loss. The stair and trail will provide a safe link for the community to the River Valley.

*What are the financial constraints which limit the feasibility of locating the project outside of the river valley?*

Residents and visitors to Lansdowne Neighbourhood can access the shared-use path (running parallel to Whitemud Drive) off 122 Street NW, however, this would be approximately 1.0 kilometer walk to get to the same point where the informal earthen trail connects to the Whitemud Drive shared-use path. The City installed a trail connecting 122 Street NW to Lansdowne Drive in 2017 as part of the Lansdowne Neighbourhood renewal.

There are no financial constraints of locating the project outside of the river valley as existing trails connect the Lansdowne Neighbourhood to the shared-use path.

*What are the social constraints which limit the feasibility of locating the project outside of the river valley?*

The need for this Project was identified during the Lansdowne Neighbourhood Renewal public engagement. The existence of the informal earthen trail indicates the popularity of this connection from Lansdowne Drive to the River Valley. Not completing the Project would require users to walk further and most users would most likely continue to use the informal earthen trail.

*What are the environmental constraints which limit the feasibility of locating the project outside of the river valley?*

The Project will restore a modified and disturbed land cover and prevent further vegetation loss. Based on the low sensitivity of the Project lands for wildlife and vegetation, the magnitude of impact as a result of the Project is low. The stair could be a barrier for wildlife passage; however, the design will include measures for wildlife movement to mitigate negative impacts.

*What are the institutional constraints which limit the feasibility of locating the project outside of the river valley?*

The current proposed stair route is the most efficient way to connect the existing trail. There are no other efficient options for connecting the Lansdowne area to the trail.

### **Conclusion**

The positive impact of the Project is very likely. The Project will restore an existing earthen trail with native plant material and provide a safe link for the community to the River Valley.