

Bridgeland Riverside Multimodal Pedestrian Bridge

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Community Development Committee:

1. Recommend that Council approve an increase of \$17.184M from the Calgary General Hospital Legacy Fund Reserve to the capital budget of Activity 464715 (Bridgeland Ped Bridge) to support further project development.
2. Forward this item to the 2023 July 4 Regular Meeting of Council as an Item of Urgent Business.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2023 JUNE 28:

That Council approve an increase of \$17.184M from the Calgary General Hospital Legacy Fund Reserve to the capital budget of Activity 464715 (Bridgeland Ped Bridge) to support further project development.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Bridgeland-Riverside Multimodal Pedestrian Bridge is a community-initiated project aimed at improving the community's connection to the river. This project is a healthy Calgary initiative that will support sustainable modes of transportation (walking and cycling), improve accessibility, and create a new destination along the river. The project will also serve as a wayfinding landmark for the Bridgeland-Riverside community that is bursting with opportunities for people to come and experience.
- The Calgary General Hospital Legacy Review Committee (Committee) has participated in the preliminary design phase of the Bridgeland Riverside Multimodal Pedestrian Bridge capital project and recommends the General Hospital Legacy Fund Reserve (Reserve) be released. The Reserve funds will support the detailed design and initial phase of construction for the project (Attachment 2).

The project has evolved to benefit all Calgarians by providing a direct and inclusive multimodal connection for active modes from 9th ST NE to the Regional Pathway, St. Patrick's Island and beyond. It will also connect the C-Train station directly to St. Patrick's Island making it simpler for everyone to visit and participate in events.

- Previous Council Direction is included in Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

In 2020, the Bridgeland Riverside Community Association initiated the Feasibility Study for the project citing their desire to be better connected to the Bow River and the recreational amenities it provides. The initiative was recognized by the Committee as a "healthy Calgary initiative" with the potential to increase access and ease of travel for active modes of transportation.

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In 2021, the PFC2021-1235 report based on the outcomes of the feasibility study, committed up to 100 per cent of the current and future General Hospital Legacy Reserve funds to the Bridgeland-Riverside Multimodal Pedestrian Bridge capital project. The preferred alignment for the new connection will provide a direct route from the Bridgeland Memorial C-Train station to St. Patrick's Island.

In 2022, the preliminary design for the project was commissioned. Based on technical research and consultation, the bridge options were developed and evaluated to determine the most suitable alignment and structure types.

The PFC2021-1235 report identified specific construction phasing for the project. Based on changes to the bridge alignment it is recommended that project phasing be revisited when more accurate cost and schedule estimates are available with the goal of delivering the project in a manner that provides the best value to Calgarians.

The PFC2021-1235 report also noted that construction would not proceed until the full amount of funding is secured. The funds requested are sufficient to complete the design and tender a portion of the project while further funding is being secured. The Committee is now recommending to complete the design and initial phase of construction.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Formal public Engagement was completed in the preliminary design phase following the recommendation made in the PFC2021-1235 report. The engagement took place online between October 26 and November 30, 2022. Bold signs and targeted social media were used to promote the survey. To improve accessibility to the survey, a PDF copy of the survey was made available online that could be mailed in for citizens not comfortable with an online format. Understanding the audiences in the area, the City's 311 system was set up to allow citizens to complete the survey verbally for those with low or no vision or access to the internet. See Attachment 3 for the full What We Heard Report.

There were 1,075 visits to the Engage portal page for this project and more than 600 contributions were made. The survey questions were designed to collect information on how the bridge is currently used to inform transportation planning, determine the public's top priorities for the new bridge and solicit unique comments. Over 200 unique comments were received through the survey with themes that generally focused on safety and accessibility concerns associated with the existing bridge crossing Memorial Drive. The information collected was used to help evaluate bridge configurations and structure types for the project.

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On March 18, 2023, The City held a multi-project information session in the Bridgeland Riverside Community that included the Bridgeland Riverside Multimodal Pedestrian Bridge project. The session was promoted through direct communication with interested parties, bold signs, targeted social media and posters. The session was well attended and provided citizens with the opportunity to speak directly with the project team.

The project team also engaged in conversation with interested parties including Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, Ward 9 Office, Bridgeland Riverside Community Association, Bridgeland Business Improvement Association, Silvera for Seniors, the City's Urban Design Review Panel and the Calgary Planning Commission.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The Bridgeland Riverside Multimodal Pedestrian Bridge is a community-driven initiative motivated by the desire to improve their connection to the Bow River and St. Patrick's Island by making it more direct and accessible. The project has evolved to benefit all Calgarians interested in exploring their own City via walking, wheeling or transit.

The project will improve accessibility for all Calgarians between the community, the existing LRT Station and St. Patrick's Island. Implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles have been implemented to create a safer and more welcoming environment. Opportunities for placemaking have been thoughtfully incorporated into the design to encourage people to intentionally pause and potentially gather.

The project aims to create a landmark identifying an entrance to the community, establish a new connection to the Bow River and is focused on resilience, community experience and wellbeing.

Environmental

The intention of this project is to encourage and support sustainable forms of transportation including active modes and transit.

The project aims to bring the natural park environment closer to the community of Bridgeland-Riverside. An area along the north shore of the river has been identified as an opportunity to retain and enhance the natural infrastructure to create a space to explore Calgary's native plants and trees and improve animal, insect and riparian habitats.

The bridge design itself will consider both climate change mitigations and adaptations to be more resilient.

Economic

The bridge will create a gateway to the community, enhancing its identity, improving accessibility and support the rapid development in the area. The bridge will provide a key missing connection along the tourism corridor between downtown and Zoo/Telus Spark as well as create direct C-Train access to St. Patrick's Island.

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The design is being developed with the construction process in mind to maximize the continuity of service and access to the community, pathways and existing LRT station throughout construction.

Service and Financial Implications

Other: Endorse the Committee's recommendation to release the Reserve to the Bridgeland-Riverside Multimodal Pedestrian Bridge capital project.

\$17.184M

The full design of the project and construction of the initial phase is intended to be funded by the Reserve. The project team is exploring opportunities to fund construction of the remaining construction.

Once built, the cost to maintain and service the new bridge will be requested in future operational budget requests.

RISK

The project will require additional funding not currently budgeted or available through the Calgary General Hospital Reserve Fund. City administration is seeking opportunities for funding through grants.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Direction
2. Calgary General Hospital Legacy Fund Review Committee Meeting Minutes April 3, 2023
3. Bridgeland Riverside Bridge - What We Heard Report
4. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Approve
Kerensa Fromherz	Public Spaces Delivery	Approve