

THE WAY WE MOVE

WALTERDALE BRIDGE HISTORICAL RESOURCES FAQ

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As the City of Edmonton begins construction on the new Walterdale Bridge, the project team continues to receive public feedback and share plans. For more information, visit the project webpage at www.edmonton.ca/WalterdaleBridge.

What is the historical significance of the area near the Walterdale Bridge?

For centuries, the area surrounding the Walterdale Bridge has been considered an area of significant cultural and traditional importance for the original peoples of this land. The north bank area known as Rosedale Flats has particular significance as a traditional gathering place. The second version of Fort Edmonton was built here, and today the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground in this location includes a memory circle, re-interment area, historic period graveyard and an interpretive belvedere with information panels to commemorate the area's historic cultural features.

Prehistoric period artifacts were previously identified throughout the project area and as part of the Walterdale Bridge project.

Additional sites have been identified on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River. All sites of historical and cultural significance are subject to mitigation measures per the Provincial *Historical Resource Act*, such as site-specific archaeological excavations as required.

How has the Aboriginal community been consulted for this project?

The project team has worked closely with the City's Aboriginal Relations Office (ARO) throughout the project, and will continue to do so. Aboriginal consultation requirements are set out by Alberta Culture. The City has had ongoing consultation with 21 Aboriginal communities throughout Alberta. The communities consulted include Enoch First Nation, Papaschase and Michel Bands, and the Métis Nation of Alberta. The proj-

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ect team gathered with Elders from local First Nations and Métis communities during the Concept phase for their guidance on respectful approaches to the project. A stakeholder input panel assembled for the project Design and Build phases included First Nations representatives. Prior to construction, Aboriginal communities were invited to carry out a ceremony. Going forward, Aboriginal communities will also be welcome to monitor pertinent excavation and in-river construction activities for the project.

Have any human remains or graves dating prior to the Fur Trade Period (pre-AD 1800) been documented in the project area?

Human remains and grave features have been recorded on the north side of the river in and around the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground dating to the Fur Trade Period (19th Century AD) only. Many of these have been documented, while the location of others are not entirely understood, particularly in areas where the ground has been disturbed by various kinds of development over time. The project will not impact any known burial locations. The Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground includes locations known to contain human remains as well as industrial infill from Edmonton's past development. Although discovery of human remains is unlikely, a procedure has been developed to deal respectfully with human remains if they are encountered.

Have any archaeological sites dating prior to the Fur Trade Period (pre-AD 1800) been recorded in the project area?

Yes. Pre-fur Trade Period artifacts have been found in the project area in small, isolated scatters. A small, well-preserved campsite approximately 2,000 years old was subject to study in 2009 near the project area. Data from this site has been recorded.

Has there been any prior archaeological study of the project area? When? Where? What were the results?

Yes. Twenty-two archaeological assessments have been carried out in and around the project area since 1967. The most recent assessments relate to the new Queen Elizabeth Pool, the decommissioning of the EPCOR Power substation and the Walterdale Bridge project. Each assessment is identified by a unique permit number and the reports are on file with the Historic Resources Management Branch at Alberta Culture.

The permit number for the Walterdale Bridge project is 2012-135; future work will be recorded under 2013-003. The project area is subject to cultural resource management requirements under the *Historical Resource Act* by Alberta

Culture.

Has there been any prior attempt to locate human remains or graves in the project area? When? Where? What were the results?

Yes. Numerous ground-penetrating radar studies have been carried out in the project area around the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground. In 2007 an archaeological study (2007-24) assessed several of these locations and found no human remains or grave features in test areas. During the 2007 study a stakeholder group identified numerous grave locations, 49 of which were subject to subsurface investigation. No human remains or grave features were identified in test areas.

Who manages the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground?

The facility is owned and maintained by the City of Edmonton and is subject to Provincial legislation.

Have traditional Aboriginal ceremony and knowledge played a role in the project?

Yes. In October 2010 the City's Aboriginal Relations Office and local Elders hosted an Elders Gathering and pipe ceremony. The project team continues to consult with First Nations and Métis communities. Many of these communities have observed traditional protocol and ceremony in regard to this project. This accommodation will continue to play an important role in the City's consultation process.

Has there been any archaeological study of the area specifically for the project? When? Where? What were the results?

Archaeological investigations on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River related to the Walterdale Bridge project have identified three sites where Pre-fur Trade Period artifacts are located. In 2012, onsite activities took place on both sides of the river, including completion of pre-construction archaeological investigation for artifacts and mitigative excavations at a previously unrecorded prehistoric archaeological site (FjPj-108). This site is a well-preserved aboriginal campsite used between 1,300 and 1,500 years ago. The camp includes a central hearth, stone tool-making debris and butchered animal bones. Over 3,900 artifacts were recovered from the site and are currently under analysis. Further information can be obtained from the project team and the project archaeologist.

Where have human remains been found in the Rossdale Flats area?

Both intact grave features and previously disturbed human

remains have been found in the area of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground. Previously disturbed human remains have been recovered from overburden deposits in the area of the EPCOR Power substation. Anecdotal evidence suggests human remains have been recovered from other locations as well, although details and locations are unclear.

Why does the project require an amendment to the legal boundary of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground?

The north egress roadway from the new Walterdale Bridge falls within the legal boundary of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground. The City recognizes and values the traditional and historic significance of the area and is proactively taking steps to minimize impacts. The memory circle, re-interment area and historic period graveyard will not be affected by the cemetery boundary amendment.

However, the Interpretive Belvedere that explains the historical and cultural features of the area will be relocated from the edge of the north riverbank. This area is culturally sensitive and requires provincial *Historical Resource Act* clearance, including a Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA). In the unlikely event that any previously disturbed human remains are identified through archaeological testing in the amendment area, they will be subject to the Walterdale Bridge Replacement Project procedure for the discovery of historic resources or human remains. The City will comply with all directions from the appropriate authorities to ensure that any human remains or historic resources discovered are protected, preserved and treated with respect. The temporary relocation of the interpretive belvedere will be based on consultation with Aboriginal communities.

How will the project team ensure construction of the new bridge and realigned roadways will not inadvertently disturb historical resources?

There are ongoing consultations throughout the project with key stakeholder groups specifically for these reasons. A comprehensive investigation plan that includes overburden stripping, sorting and construction monitoring in combination with pre-construction historical resources impact assessment has been developed, as required for *Historical Resource Act* clearance (File #4715-10-045).

What will you do if human remains are found during the course of this project?

The City has developed a procedure to follow in the event human remains or historical resources are discovered during construction. It was developed as part of consultation with

the 21 Aboriginal communities, as well as in conjunction with local stakeholders.

If any human remains or historical resources are discovered, all work in the vicinity will stop. The Edmonton Police and the Medical Examiner will be notified, as well as the Office of the Minister of Culture, and the City of Edmonton Aboriginal Relations Office. The City intends to fully comply with directions from all authorities to ensure that any human remains or historic resources are protected and preserved in an appropriate and meaningful way, and that any discovery is treated with respect. Any disturbance or removal, including potential reburial, will only occur once these procedures have been followed.

Where is the existing boundary of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground?

The legal boundary for the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground was set in 2005 through the Alberta Cemeteries Act and is defined by 105 Street, Rosssdale Road, the EPCOR Power substation and near the top of the bank of the North Saskatchewan River. The boundary encompasses the memory circle, re-interment area and historic period graveyard, as well as intact flood plain deposits and areas of extensive 20th Century industrial infill.

The precise boundary of the historic period graveyard within the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground has not been fully determined. It is currently based on the excavation of sections of a rectangular fenced enclosure that is believed to represent the 19th Century Fort Edmonton Cemetery fence line.

Where exactly will you be doing work on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River?

The west edge of the new bridge will be right next to the east edge of the existing bridge. The new bridge will cross the river at an angle, more closely aligning with 105 Street to the north. New roadworks at the north end of the new bridge will tie into existing 105 Street south of River Valley Road/Rosssdale Road, without disturbing the memory circle, re-interment area and historic period graveyard.

Will access to the memory circle area be restricted during construction?

Access to the memory circle area will be maintained from the north side of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground.