

## Walterdale Bridge Replacement

### Preliminary Engineering Update

(December 2011)

The City of Edmonton is preparing to build a signature arch bridge across the North Saskatchewan River to replace the existing Walterdale Bridge (constructed 1914) that is approaching the end of its service life. The project is currently in the first half of the design phase, with preliminary engineering underway.

#### PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

Preliminary engineering follows up on the concept plan for the bridge that City Council approved in April 2011. It involves examination of all aspects of the project, including:

- arch bridge design alternatives
- roadworks to connect adjacent roadways, facilities and downtown
- connections to river valley trail system
- modifications to existing utilities (drainage, water, power and telecommunications)
- staging of utility, bridge, road and trail construction
- environmental mitigations (e.g. river valley protection, historical resources etc.)
- geotechnical testing

Once the preliminary engineering phase is complete the project will move into the detailed design phase.



Current artist's rendering of the new Walterdale Bridge.

#### TIMELINE

In 2000 an assessment indicated the service life of the existing bridge was nearly complete. The bridge was rehabilitated to extend its service life 10 years.

Bridge Replacement Project Timeline	
November 2010	Public open house to share information and gather feedback.
January 2011	City Council approves bridge construction during 2013-2014.
March 2011	Public open houses related to alignment, style and roadworks.
April 2011	City Council approves concept plan.
July 2011	Preliminary engineering begins.
February 2012	Public open house related to preliminary engineering.
Spring 2012	Detailed design begins.
2013-2015	Bridge construction.
2015	Grand opening of new bridge. Decommissioning of old bridge.

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## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement for preliminary engineering began during fall 2011. A stakeholder input panel was established to help inform and prepare the project team for broader public involvement. A public open house is scheduled for February 2012.

The project team will use engineering analysis results, feedback from public open houses and information gathered from various studies of the project area (e.g. West Rosedale Urban Design Plan, repurposing of the nearby EPCOR site, master plans for Kinsmen Sports Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park) to complete preliminary engineering.

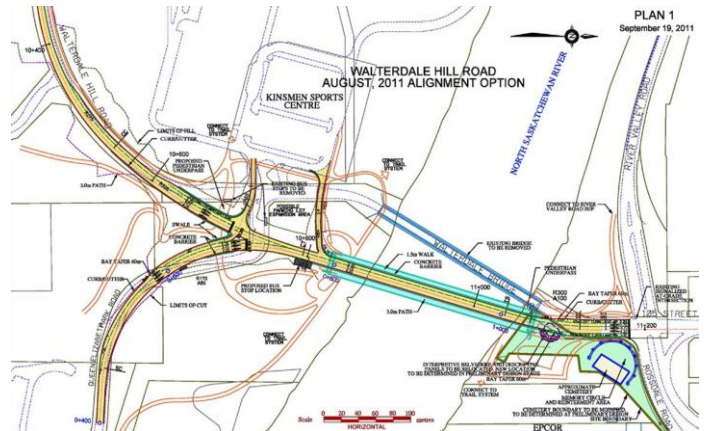
## ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Walterdale Bridge Replacement project is occurring in an area of great significance to Aboriginal peoples. The Rosedale Flats was historically known as a 'Pehonan' – a Cree word meaning 'Waiting Place' where ceremonies, celebrations, trade and governance occurred.

In an effort to preserve the project area's historic significance, consultation with the Aboriginal community in Edmonton is ongoing throughout the entire project timeline, as well as with First Nations and Métis communities identified through the Province of Alberta's Historic Resources Act. The City of Edmonton Aboriginal Relations Office is assisting with Aboriginal community consultation.

The new bridge is being built adjacent to the Traditional Burial Grounds and Fort Edmonton Cemetery, where the lives and spirits of many people - First Nations, Métis, French Canadian and European settlers - are commemorated and honoured. Construction of the new bridge requires temporary relocation of the interpretive belvedere located at the northeast quadrant of the bridge.

Geotechnical and archaeological testing on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River has begun. Pre-historic (before circa AD 1750) artifacts were identified in three of 29 test locations. No human remains or grave features were identified within the project area boundary.



## NEXT STEPS - DETAILED DESIGN

Once preliminary engineering is complete the detailed design phase will begin. Detailed design uses the results of preliminary engineering to define and detail the construction scope of the project, including final bridge design, alignment, construction lay-down areas, associated road and trail connections, utility relocations and requirements to protect cultural heritage and the environment.

## CONTACT US

Please visit [www.edmonton.ca/walterdalebridge](http://www.edmonton.ca/walterdalebridge). More information is available from:

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