

Walterdale Bridge Replacement Preliminary Engineering Update

(February 8, 2012)

The City of Edmonton is preparing to build a signature arch bridge across the North Saskatchewan River to replace the existing Walterdale Bridge (constructed in 1912-1913) that is approaching the end of its service life. The project is approaching the end of the first half of the design phase, with preliminary engineering approaching completion.

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING

Preliminary engineering follows up on the concept plan for the project that City Council approved in April 2011. It includes the following:

- 30% design of chosen arch bridge design alternative
- 30% design of approach roadways
- connections to the adjacent river valley trail system
- coordination and relocation of utilities
- staging of utility, bridge, road and trail construction
- ongoing work to obtain environmental permits and approvals (e.g. river valley protection, historical resources etc.)
- geotechnical testing

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



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 in 2004 to extend its service life to approximately 2015.

Bridge Replacement Project Timeline	
November 18, 2010	Public open house to share information and gather feedback.
January 2011	City Council approves bridge construction during 2013-2014.
March 22, 2011	Public open house related to alignment, style and roadworks.
April 2011	City Council approves concept plan.
July 2011	Preliminary engineering begins.
February 8, 2012	Public open house related to seek feedback on draft preliminary engineering design.
Spring 2012	Preliminary engineering finalized. Detailed design begins.
Spring 2013-Winter 2015	Bridge construction.
Fall 2015	Bridge open to traffic.
2015/2016	Removal of existing bridge.

BRIDGE AND ROADWAY DESIGN

The new Walterdale Bridge will be a unique structure located in the heart of the river valley, respecting the setting, and creating a landmark gateway to the city's downtown. The bridge will be a point of pride for Edmonton citizens and draw people to the river valley.

The arch bridge will be constructed on the east side of the existing bridge as per the alignment in the approved concept plan. The bridge deck includes three northbound lanes, with a separated sidewalk on the

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west side and wider multi-use trail for pedestrians and cyclists on the east side. The bridge will include two inclined structural steel arches with suspended cable hangers.

The roadways south and north of the bridge will be slightly modified and realigned to tie into the new bridge. Queen Elizabeth Park Road and Walterdale Hill Road will each start as two lane roads and widen to three lanes as they approach their intersection on the south side of the bridge. This will improve traffic flow in the area.

The network of multi-use trails and sidewalks will connect the existing network with the bridge and include the addition of a multi-use trail along the north side of Walterdale Hill from 109 Street and pathways along the north and south banks.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement for preliminary engineering began during fall 2011 with a series of stakeholder group meetings. A stakeholder input panel was also established to help inform and prepare the project team for broader public involvement, culminating with the open house on February 8, 2012.

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

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Walterdale Bridge Replacement project is occurring in an area of great significance to all citizens of Edmonton. 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, 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 Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground, 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 relocation of the interpretive belvedere located at the northeast quadrant of the bridge.



Aerial rendering of new Walterdale Bridge

NEXT STEPS – DETAILED DESIGN

Once preliminary engineering is complete the detailed design phase will begin. Detailed design uses the results of preliminary engineering, including public consultation, to define and detail the construction scope of the project. Detailed design considers final bridge design, temporary works and construction lay-down areas, associated road and trail connections, landscaping, utility relocations and methodologies to protect cultural heritage and the environment, all environmental permits and approvals, etc.

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