# What We Heard

Summer 2016

Prior to proceeding with the rehabilitation design of Mill Creek trestle bridges, the City conducted a survey in July of 2016 to understand views about the historical significance of the trestle bridges.

The survey was administered online (for the general public and Edmonton Insight Community), as well as through intercept surveys in the ravine. A total of 2789 responses were received.

The results indicate the majority of respondents (87%) feel the Mill Creek Ravine trestle bridges have historic value and that the rehabilitation of these bridges should generally replicate or mimic their current design.

In response to this input, the trestle bridges will be rehabilitated to replicate the look of the existing bridges while also improving their safety and functionality.

The survey also asked for feedback on any other issues that should be considered when rehabilitating these bridges.

Some common themes that emerged from the survey include:

**Minimize Impacts to Trail Users & Communicate Impacts –** Stage the construction in such a way that impacts to trail users are minimized. Ensure that advanced notice is given to trail users prior to construction so they are aware of detour routes.

**City Response –** Construction staging will occur in such a way that minimizes disturbances to trail users. During construction there will be detours and these will be communicated to the public in advance through the project website, public information sessions, trail signage and emails to key stakeholder groups.

**Safety and Functionality –** Ensure that the bridges are designed with safety and functionality in mind for all users.

**City Response –** The bridges will be widened to enhance safety and functionality. The bridge decks on all five structures will be replaced with new planking and the approaches at each end will be raised to eliminate trip hazards that currently exist. The handrails on the bridges will be replaced with safer and higher railings. The existing railing is low and some of the pieces of wood are splitting or are in poor condition. The bridges will be designed in accordance with the Canadian Bridge Code, which is the nationally accepted standard.

**Environmental and Historical Considerations –** Ensure that impacts to the environment are minimized and have a sign discussing the history of the ravine.

**City Response –** An environmental impact assessment will be completed as part of this project. This assessment measures the impacts to the environment a proposed project may have. In response to these impacts, mitigation measures are developed to minimize effects to the environment. The existing bridge piers which are currently in-stream will be permanently removed, improving the creek flow and in turn, removing the need for any future work in the water. This environmental impact assessment will need to be approved by Council prior to the project proceeding to construction.

The project team has worked closely with the Biodiversity and River Valley Planning Unit and the City's Urban Forestry area to minimize tree clearance. Trees within the immediate vicinity of the bridges will need to be permanently cleared in order to improve user safety and allow access for construction vehicles. Several trees are also growing below the bridges and have become entangled and are damaging the structures as they grow.

Individual trees located outside of the clearing zone are dead and will be assessed to determine if they pose a risk of falling onto the bridges and trail system. If they pose a safety risk to trail users or the bridge itself, they will be removed. As per the City's Corporate Tree Policy C456A, the asset value of the trees that are removed will be used to plant ornamental trees in public park areas within the vicinity of the project site. This will aid in expanding Edmonton's urban forest to ensure that this essential City resource remains diverse and sustainable.

A plaque or board telling the story of the trestle bridges will be installed as part of construction.

Public Information Session #1 (October 2016)

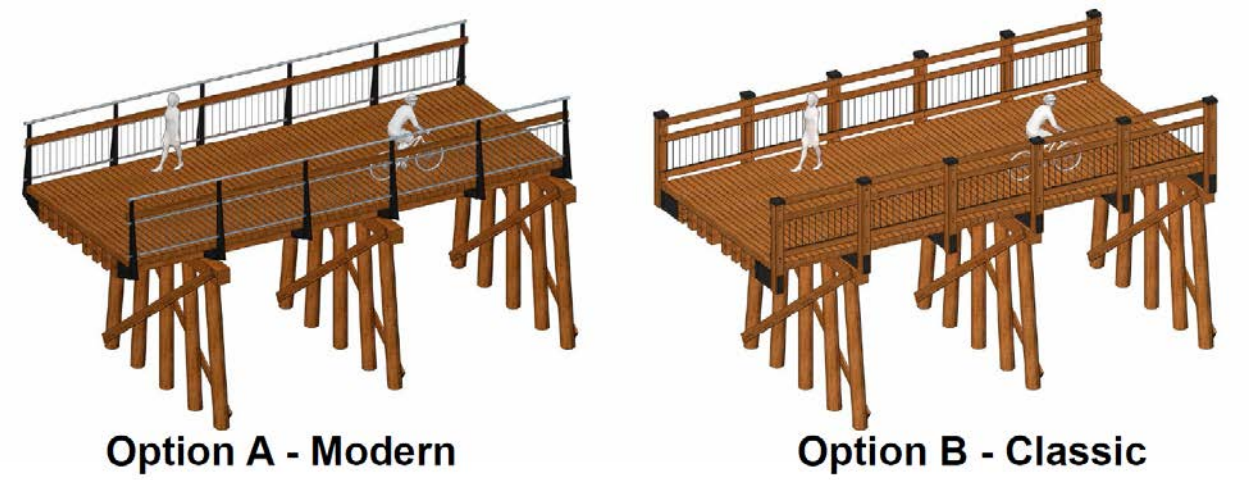
The City hosted a public information session where members of the project team presented project details and were available to hear feedback and answer questions from the public. The topics covered included: construction scope of work, schedule, impacts to the trails, and the results of the public survey completed in July 2016.

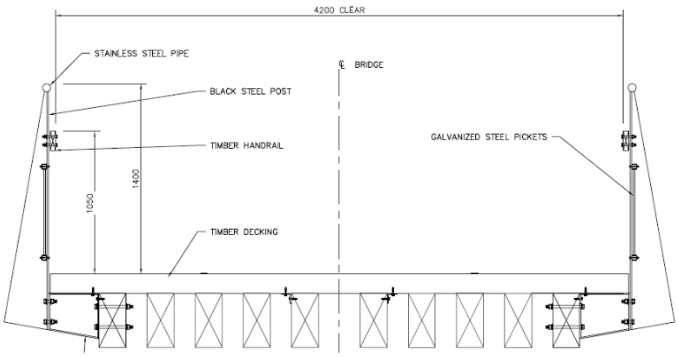
A total of 72 attendees were present at the first information session.

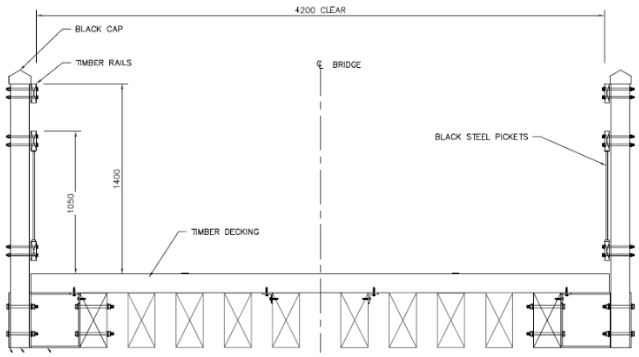
During the session, attendees were asked to provide:

- Their preference of bridge rail for the three trestle bridges. Two options were presented to the public: classic or modern as shown below. Participants who could not attend the information session or wanted more time to decide, were able to vote online for two weeks after the information session. A total of 74 people cast votes for the handrails, with 88% of the public preferring the classic handrail. With this feedback, the design team has moved forward with the classic rail design.
- Participants were asked to indicate how they use the ravine, their frequency of use and the first three digits of their postal code. Using the first three digits of the postal code, the project team is able to see how users make their way through the ravine. This information will help inform the project team when looking at detour routes.

The same themes heard in the public survey last July were repeated at the public information session.




## Next Steps

Using the information gathered from the public, detours will be planned for construction. These detours will be shared with the public at the second information session (Summer 2017), through signage along the trails and through emails to stakeholders prior to construction.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# Mill Creek Ravine Pedestrian Bridges Rehabilitation

## FEBRUARY 2017