

## Smith Crossing Pedestrian Bridge Replacement

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Q: Why is this pedestrian bridge being replaced?**

This pedestrian bridge has reached the end of its service life. This bridge is over 100 years old and must be replaced with a new structure to meet current standards.

#### **Q: Why can't you rehabilitate or repair the existing bridge?**

The cost of repairing the existing bridge and upgrading it to modern structural and safety standards is very high. A new structure will reduce costs and ensure a long lasting and safe crossing at this location.

#### **Q. Will the new bridge be at the same location as the existing bridge?**

Yes, the new bridge will be at the same location. This reduces environmental impacts on the site and maintains the connection to the existing trail system.

#### **Q. What criteria were used to develop the design of the bridge?**

The criteria for the new bridge include:

- meet current structural and safety requirements
- minimize environmental impacts for vegetation and wildlife
- allow for use during high water levels
- fits the site and provides visual interest
- Capital costs, anticipated life span and lifecycle/maintenance costs were very important.

#### **Q. How much will this bridge cost?**

The anticipated cost for construction is \$4.4 million.

#### **Q. What environmental studies have occurred?**

An environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been carried out to meet City of Edmonton Bylaw 7188 requirements. This study considers potential impacts to slope stability, surface water, soils, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries and historical resources during construction and operation and documents required mitigation measures including for reclamation of the site to the current or better condition.

### **Q. Are there any special considerations for the bridge demolition?**

The existing Smith Crossing Pedestrian Bridge, like many historic bridges, was coated with paint that contains lead. This paint is not a hazard to pedestrians using the bridge, however, special work practices are required and will be undertaken for worker safety during bridge demolition. Workers will also be required to contain the paint that is removed from the bridge during bridge demolition, to prevent it from dropping into the creek or onto the creek banks. Before the old bridge steel is recycled, the old paint will be safely removed and disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility. All safety and regulatory requirements will be met during demolition of the bridge.

### **Q. How wide is the new bridge?**

The new bridge is the same width as the existing bridge, with a clear width of 4.2 m between the railings. This allows for people to linger on the bridge, take photos, and enjoy the views. Others can easily walk by as they go to and from the Larch and MacTaggart Sanctuaries.

### **Q. Why is the bridge deck/floor concrete rather than timber?**

A major criteria for all City of Edmonton bridge projects is to build a durable bridge with a low life cycle (maintenance) cost. Timber decks are costly to maintain. A concrete deck with curbs will keep drainage water on top of the bridge deck and keep water from trickling through the deck onto the steel beams below. This reduces the corrosion or rusting of the steel bridge components.

### **Q. How much existing vegetation will be taken down?**

The new bridge is going in the same location as the existing bridge which will reduce impact on the existing vegetation. Any vegetation that is removed will be replaced with native vegetation species and will meet Bylaw 7188 (River Valley Bylaw) requirements.

### **Q: What colour is the new pedestrian bridge?**

The new pedestrian bridge will be white to blend in with the natural surroundings. While a blue colour was considered as a reminder of the original bridge colour, a light colour is preferred to help the bridge look more natural and fit better into the landscape. This design consideration is also in keeping with the bridge renderings used during public engagement, which showed a light bridge colour.

### **Q: What will the handrails look like?**

The handrails will be made primarily of steel and will meet current safety requirements. The handrail design will discourage climbing and will accommodate people leaning against the railings as they enjoy the views.

### **Q. How long will construction take?**

Construction is anticipated to start in fall 2022 with the bridge opening in fall 2023. The site, including the parking lot, will be closed during construction.

**Q. Will parts of the existing bridge be retained and used on site as part of the amenities?**

A portion of the bridge will be used in developing the new interpretive plaque.

**Q. The history of the site is important. What upgrades will occur to the old interpretive plaque?**

The project team is working with the City wayfinding group to develop the context and wording to be part of the updated interpretive sign.

**Q. Will there be access provided to the creeks for paddling and views?**

Informal access will continue to be provided similar to existing conditions. No new trails or platforms will be included.

**Q. What other amenities will be included?**

Updated interpretive signage will be provided. Some informal seating, such as large boulders suitable for sitting, may be included.