

What We Heard

GROAT ROAD BRIDGE REHABILITATION

City of Edmonton

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Groat Road Bridges Rehabilitation

On **November 29, 2016**, the City of Edmonton hosted a public information session during the project Design Phase in advance of construction beginning on three Groat Road bridges in spring 2018.

Construction will include:

- Rehabilitation of **Groat Road Bridge** over the North Saskatchewan River to extend its service life another 50 years.
- Repairs and surface replacement on the **Victoria Park Bridge** over Groat Road to maintain it in good condition.
- Minor rehabilitation work on the **Mayfair Overpass** to extend its service life until more substantial rehabilitation work is needed in 10 years or more.

The City also presented information about potential roadwork intended to be completed alongside this project in order to reduce traffic impacts. The road reconfiguration includes ramp and intersection changes on Groat Road, Victoria Park Road, and River Valley Road. Road construction is *pending Council funding approval in spring 2017*.

Below is a summary of what we heard from Edmontonians regarding the Groat Road bridges rehabilitation project.

OVERALL PROJECT CONCERNS

- *I am concerned about the timing of this project and the amount taxpayers will contribute through any level of government.*
- *This is the second time [rehabilitation] is being redone. Spend the money and do it right.*
- *[This] huge, expensive project will have major impacts on commuters for at least two years.*

Bridges are designed for a 75-year lifespan, which includes periodic repairs and interventions. Edmonton's bridges are regularly inspected; these three were found to need in-depth work based on their conditions.

The City retained a consultant to assess structure and rehabilitation options, which were presented along with life-cycle costs and corresponding rehabilitation costs. The last intervention was completed in 1989-1990. Twenty-five years is a typical interval for interventions on this type of structure. As major intervention work was required on the river bridge, the project team saw an opportunity to optimize the function of the existing bridge and extend its lifespan. Other cities use similar methods for assessing and rehabilitating bridges.

GROAT ROAD RIVER BRIDGE SIDEWALK

- *I am disappointed that the design does very little to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists [such as] a new sidewalk on the west side of the bridge.*
- *Given that the bridge deck and girders are being replaced, it is an opportune time to add a west side pedestrian/cycling path to match the one on the east side.*
- *Can a sidewalk be added to the west side of the Groat River Bridge?*
- *I am very disappointed to see no pedestrian accommodation on the west side of Groat Bridge.*

A west sidewalk on the Groat Road river crossing was investigated but was not further considered due to implementation costs and engineering constraints on the structure.

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- *Please make the cycling/pedestrian lane 4.2 m wide to match the new standard.*

The sidewalk on the east side of the bridge will be widened to 4.2m, matching the new design standards.

Additional comments were received about pedestrian access in the area. The project team continues to explore potential opportunities to add pedestrian elements where possible.

PARK ACCESS

- *Please keep the parking lot open at Government House Park during and after construction. Many people park there in order to walk MacKinnon Ravine.*
- *What will the impact be on the adjacent parks and many events that occur in the area?*
- *Please coordinate with civic events regarding Groat Road being closed due to running races, biking races, etc. You can't have Groat in 2018-2019.*

Access to adjacent parks and recreation facilities will be maintained throughout construction. The City's Civic Events Office will work with special events planned for the area to find solutions that work for each special event and for construction planned in the area.

CONSTRUCTION & CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC

- *How long will the road disruptions last? When will the project start?*
- *The construction phases will, of course, be painful because of the disruption to all traffic.*
- *Anticipate significant delays during construction.*
- *Looks lengthy with lots of car/traffic line ups due to narrower roadways during construction. This is a major north-south roadway and alternatives routes may be needed.*
- *Work is too long.*
- *Why will construction take so long?*

The project team understands the importance of these roads and bridges for both commuters and pedestrians. To minimize impacts for area users, the bridges will be worked on while access is maintained. As part of road and bridge construction, signs will be updated to reflect the changes and better guide commuters. Work is anticipated to begin in spring 2018.

Keeping these routes open during construction does mean a longer construction timeline, which is why work will take place over three construction seasons between 2018-2020.



Mayfair Overpass