

DATE OF MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2021
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SUBJECT BUTTERTUBS BRIDGE PROJECT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To provide Council with an update on the Buttertubs Bridge project in support of 2022 budget deliberations.

BACKGROUND

At the May 19, 2021 Finance and Audit Committee meeting, Council included \$500,000 for the Buttertubs Bridge project for consideration in the 2022 budget.

The Buttertubs Bridge is a key link in the Off Bowen Bikeway connecting active transportation routes in the VIU and Downtown Area to the Off Bowen Bikeway along Boxwood Road connecting to the north. Attachment A shows the overall Off Bowen Bikeway and Attachment B shows the location of the Buttertubs Bridge.

DISCUSSION

The Millstone River Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study was started to better understand the costs and constraints of the project.

The study included a review of geotechnical and environmental conditions, the presence of exiting utilities, and the general requirements for an active transportation crossing.

A number of challenges were identified including:

- Poor soil conditions requiring piled foundations
- High 200 year flood levels relative to the surrounding grade which required a significant grade change along the crossing
- Few locations suitable for an abutment on the east side of the river
- Constructing the abutments and the approaches to the bridge would have a significant impact on the existing property

These challenges impact the estimated cost of the project; the estimate presented at the May 19, 2021 Finance and Audit Committee meeting was \$500,000. The new estimated cost of the crossing, considering the above constraints, is between \$1M and \$1.5M.

Some of these constraints could be mitigated by designing and constructing the bridge in conjunction with a redevelopment of the property at 15 Buttertubs Drive. Staff are currently in conversations with the owners of the property about future redevelopment plans and the

possibility of developing an agreement regarding the bridge. This could also open some possibility of alternative bridge locations.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that work continue on the planning of the Buttertubs Bridge by evaluating other locations for the crossing and developing strategies to mitigate the challenges found in the feasibility study. It is also recommended that construction would be deferred to a future year possibly in conjunction with a redevelopment of 15 Buttertubs Drive. This would enable the funds to be diverted to other projects.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Several challenges were identified in the Millstone River Pedestrian Crossing Feasibility Study.
- The revised cost estimate for the project is between \$1M and \$1.5M.
- There is the possibility of mitigating some of the challenges by constructing the bridge in conjunction with a redevelopment of 15 Buttertubs Drive.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Off Bowen Bikeway
Attachment B - Buttertubs Bridge Location

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