

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING JUNE 15, 2022

AUTHORED BY PHIL STEWART, MANAGER, ENGINEERING PROJECTS

SUBJECT LENHART BRIDGE PROJECT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council's approval for additional funding for the Lenhart Bridge project. |

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to increase the budget for the Lenhart Bridge project by \$188,000.

BACKGROUND

At the north east corner of Bowen Park, the trail system connects to Riverside Drive via an existing pedestrian bridge over the Millstone River, adjacent to Lenhart Avenue.

The existing Lenhart Bridge is 1.4m wide, with a wooden deck and chain link fence railings. While the existing bridge provides a pedestrian connection, the narrow width and offset gates force cyclists to dismount to cross. The existing chain link fence panels are insufficient as guardrails for combined pedestrian and cyclist use as they lack handrails and are not the required height for cyclists. The concrete structure was built in the 1960's and is in fair condition, overall.

At the May 3, 2021 GPC meeting, Council directed Staff to add the Lenhart Bridge upgrade project to the 2022-2026 Financial Plan with a budget of \$237,000. |

DISCUSSION

With the completion of the Bowen Park Trailway and Utility Upgrades project, upgrading the Lenhart Bridge would enhance the mobility link between the Hospital, VIU, and Downtown areas.

A Design-Build Negotiated Request for Proposal for the project closed on May 31st with two submissions; both submissions exceeded the project budget. The cost to complete the project, including contingency, is expected to be \$425,000.

While the submissions exceed the project budget, it is not altogether unexpected. There has been a sharp rise in the cost of construction and an upward trend in construction costs due to an extremely busy construction market, a shortage of skilled labour, supply chain issues and

inflation. The result has been higher prices and longer timelines for projects; this is also being felt in other communities on Vancouver Island.

Financial Considerations

The additional \$188,000 will be funded from the Community Works Reserve Fund. The projected balance in the reserve is sufficient to fund the additional budget required to complete the project.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to increase the budget for the Lenhart Bridge project by \$188,000.
 - The advantage of this option is that this project creates an enhanced mobility link between the Hospital, VIU, and Downtown areas.
 - Financial Implications: \$188,000 will be added to year 2022 of the 2022-2026 Financial Plan to increase the budget of the Lenhart Bridge Replacement project to a total of \$425,000. The additional funds needed will come from the Community Works Reserve Fund. The 2022 – 2026 Financial Plan will be amended at a later date to include the budget increase.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council direct Staff to cancel the project.
 - The advantages of this option: Given the current market conditions, it is expected that other projects will exceed their budget. If this project is cancelled, the funding may be used for other projects.
 - The disadvantages of this option: The current 1.4m wide Lenhart Bridge will remain in place and be a partial barrier for active transportation users. Components of the existing bridge are timber and will need to be refurbished in the near future if the bridge is not replaced.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The proposed Lenhart Bridge project would enhance an existing mobility link between the Hospital, VIU, and Downtown areas.
- Up to \$188,000 in additional funding is required to complete the project.
- Construction market conditions have led to higher than expected pricing on this project and many others.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Location Plan

Submitted by:

Phil Stewart
Manager, Engineering Projects

Concurrence by:

Poul Rosen
Director, Engineering

Bill Sims
General Manager, Engineering and Public Works

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance