



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

STAFF REPORT

To: Council

File No.: 5335-20/5400-02

From: Chief Administrative Officer

Date: July 19, 2021

Subject: 6th Street Multi-Use Active Transportation Bridge - Funding Reallocation

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Staff Report is to request a budget reallocation of \$300,000 in project funding to complete Detailed Design, Geotechnical Investigations and Permitting in 2021, for the 6th Street Multi-Use Active Transportation Bridge. The additional funding would be reallocated from the Ryan Road Sidewalk – Sandwich to Braidwood project, to the 6th Street Bridge Capital project fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The costs for detailed design and related activities are higher than were budgeted, and so will require a funding reallocation in order to complete the design phase as well as geotechnical investigations and permitting in 2021. It is proposed that \$300,000 be reallocated from the Ryan Road Sidewalk - Sandwich to Braidwood project, to the 6th Street Bridge Capital project fund in 2021. Completing detailed design will position the project to apply for “shovel-ready” grant opportunities, should they become available.

The approved 2021-2025 Financial Plan indicates \$150,000 in design costs in 2021 and \$4.4M in construction costs in 2022. As per recently completed procurement for consulting services, the detailed design and related activities are more expensive than previously estimated, while the contract administration is less expensive. The estimates for the physical construction of the bridge will be updated in the detailed design phase.

CAO RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT based on the July 19 staff report “6th Street Multi-Use Active Transportation Bridge - Funding Reallocation”, Council approve OPTION 1 and direct Staff to:

1. Reallocate \$300,000 of Community Gas Tax Funds from the Ryan Road Sidewalk - Sandwich to Braidwood project fund, to the 6th Street Bridge project fund in 2021.

BACKGROUND:

At the December 7, 2020 Council meeting, a Staff Report was presented to Council to seek direction to proceed into detailed design for the symmetrical cable-stayed bridge option, which was recommended in the recently completed Detailed Options Analysis. The following resolution was carried:

That based on the December 7th, 2020 staff report "6th Street Multi-Use Active Transportation Bridge Update" Council approve OPTION 1, and direct:

1. Staff to include a line item in 2021 of the 2021-2025 Financial Plan to support design works with potential construction in 2022 subject to successful grant funding and borrowing in place.
2. Staff to proceed with detailed design of a 4 metre wide Symmetrical Cable Stayed Bridge, as per the project schedule presented;
3. Staff to commence public engagement to Inform the public of the project ;
4. Staff to further review potential grant opportunities in 2021, with the goal of supporting construction in late 2022.
5. That staff consult with the Comox Valley Arts Council, Comox Valley Art Gallery and K'ómoks First Nation on bridge design elements; in particular regarding the inclusion of public art and potential partnership opportunities for grant funding.

A 6th Street Multi-Use Bridge is included in the recently completed Parks & Recreation Master Plan and referenced in the Transportation Master Plan for the City of Courtenay. The bridge is listed as a long-term improvement in the Parks and Trails Master Plan. In addition, the Downtown Courtenay Playbook also notes an additional crossing at 6th Street should be explored further.

A 6th Street Multi-Use Bridge would provide a dedicated cycling and pedestrian connection between downtown Courtenay and Simms Millennium Park as well as a connection to the future cycling network along 6th Street and Anderton Avenue, the Courtenay Riverway Trail, and the Lewis Park pathway connection to the Lewis Centre.

DISCUSSION:

Project Budget Reallocation:

Procurement for detailed design has now been completed, and this work is expected to start immediately. The detailed design and related activities are more expensive than previously estimated and will require a funding reallocation in order to complete the design phase as well as geotechnical investigations and permitting in 2021.

Budget	Phase
\$150,000	Budget Available
\$450,000	Budget Required
\$300,000	Total Budget Reallocation

It is proposed that \$300,000 of Community Gas Tax Funds be reallocated from the Ryan Road Sidewalk – Sandwich to Braidwood project fund to the 6th Street Bridge project fund.

The approved 2021-2025 Financial Plan indicates \$150,000 in design costs in 2021 and \$4.4M in construction costs in 2022. As per recently completed procurement for consulting services, the detailed design and related activities are more expensive than previously estimated, while the contract administration is less expensive. The estimates for the physical construction of the bridge will be updated in the detailed design phase.

The Ryan Road Sidewalk – Sandwich to Braidwood project is not expected to be impacted by this budget reallocation, and construction is tentatively planned for 2022. Although originally budgeted for

construction in this year, after further review it was determined that design and permitting requirements from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure would make this not possible. Project options are currently being reviewed, and a report will be forthcoming to council for consideration.

Project Schedule:

The next step for the 6th St Bridge project is to advance detailed design in order to facilitate grant application for “shovel-ready” grants. Detailed design is estimated to take four to six months to complete. Advancing the project to construction would be subject Council’s approval, and availability of funding from grants and/or borrowing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

A budget reallocation of \$300,000 in project funding to complete Detailed Design, Geotechnical Investigations and Permitting in 2021, for the 6th Street Multi-Use Active Transportation Bridge is being requested. The additional funding will be reallocated from the Ryan Road Sidewalk – Sandwich to Braidwood project to the 6th Street Bridge Capital project which is funded by Community Gas Tax funds in the approved 2021-2025 Financial Plan. The Ryan Road Sidewalk – Sandwich to Braidwood project is not expected to be impacted by this budget reallocation, and construction is tentatively planned for 2022.

Project	Current 2021 Budget	Proposed 2021 Budget After Reallocation
6 th Street Multi-Use Active Transportation Bridge	\$150,000	\$450,000
Ryan Road Sidewalk – Sandwich to Braidwood	\$375,000	\$75,000

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

The 6th St Bridge Rehabilitation Project will be led by Engineering Services, with support from most other City Departments. Consultants with technical knowledge specific to this work will be utilized to develop and implement detailed designs and processes. Estimated costs associated with external consultants are included in the project capital budget.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Courtenay practices advanced asset management principles and is recognised as a leader in the field. Within this context, the 6th St Bridge would become one of the City’s most valuable assets providing a critical service of connecting the east and west parts of the community for active transportation users.

On-going maintenance would be periodically required to maintain the asset at its intended level of service thereby avoiding pre-mature failure, and increased costs resulting from reactive rather than planned maintenance. The bridge would likely be inspected under contract, and routine maintenance and repairs would be undertaken as part of PWS’ operational budget.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

**As part of the 2019 Strategic Priorities Chart a list of Council's NOW/NEXT priorities were adopted.
Strategic Priorities 2019 - 2022**

As part of the Strategic Priorities for 2019 – 2022 the following are relevant to the 6th Street Bridge Project:

We proactively plan and invest in our natural and built environment

- Focus on asset management for sustainable service delivery
- ▲ Look for regional infrastructure solutions for shared services
- ▲ Advocate, collaborate and act to reduce air quality contaminants
- ▲ Support social, economic and environmental sustainability solutions

We plan and invest in methods of multi-modal transportation

- Move forward with implementing the City's Transportation Master Plan
- ▲ ■ Collaborate with regional and senior government partners to provide cost-effective transportation solutions

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REFERENCE:

The OCP sets out the following policies in Part 4 Land Use Designations and Part 5 Transportation:

4.6.6.3 Policies

1. Wherever possible, the walkway portion of the Riverway system will be adjacent to the foreshore of the Courtenay River, slough and estuary. Where necessary or desirable, land acquisitions or easements will be sought to accomplish this objective while considering the integrity of these areas.
2. Council will investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge crossing of the Courtenay River, to link the west bank downtown with Lewis Park and/or Simms Millennium Park (for example, a suggested pedestrian/bicycle bridge from 6th Street to the east bank).

5.3 Policies

7. The City will continue to pursue the development of a continuous, integrated bicycle network in order to promote and encourage cycling as a commuting alternative to the automobile and as a means of active recreation. The Bicycle Planning Strategy adopted in 1995 will be reviewed and updated.

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY REFERENCE:

The 6th St Bridge Project is aligned with "Goal 4: TRANSPORTATION" of the RGS:

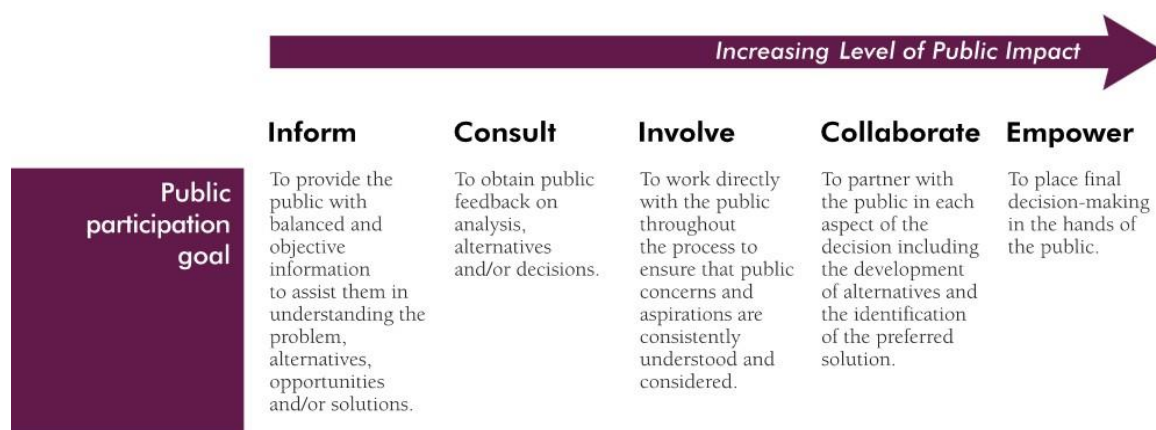
Supporting Policies:

- 4B-1 Promote and encourage cycling plans and programs through ongoing local and regional initiatives and actions.
- 4B-4 OCPs should identify regionally important, priority street connections for pedestrian and cycling improvements and require that connections be established as a condition of redevelopment.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public engagement has been a priority throughout the project. As staff proceeds into detailed design, a public engagement program will be initiated including follow up meetings with key stakeholders previously identified as well as a public awareness campaign to highlight the project.

Staff recommend to **Inform** the public and key stakeholder groups based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:



http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/imported/IAP2%20Spectrum_vertical.pdf

OPTIONS:

Option 1: THAT based on the July 19 staff report "6th Street Multi-Use Active Transportation Bridge - Funding Reallocation", Council approve OPTION 1 and direct Staff to:

1. Reallocate \$300,000 of Community Gas Tax Funds from the Ryan Road Sidewalk – Sandwick to Braidwood project fund, to the 6th Street Bridge project fund in 2021.

Option 2: Refer back to Staff for further review.

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