

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Bowring Park Bridge Replacement Alternative

Date Prepared: December 2, 2019

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Ian Froude

Ward: 5

Decision/Direction Required:

Replace the bridge crossing the Waterford River, opposite 308 Waterford Bridge Rd., with two observation decks.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

In January 2019, the Department of Planning, Engineering and Regulatory Services initiated an inspection of the bridge crossing the Waterford River at the Whales Back Falls. Results identified the structure to be unsafe and it was subsequently closed.

The 12.4 m. long bridge connected a series of trails on both the north and south sides of the river and was used as a viewing platform to watch river, fish and bird activity.

There are two additional bridges connecting the north and south banks of the river; one at the Cowan Ave. intersection (12.0 m.) and another at the Rose Garden (12.5 m.). The Whales Back Bridge was situated mid – way between the two.

Replacement of the Whales Back Bridge with a similar structure is estimated at \$182,000 - \$275,000, pending style and construction method.

As the river crossing requirements are adequately addressed by the two (2) existing bridges, an opportunity exists to fulfill viewing roles through the construction of observation decks, one on each side of the river, at the current bridge abutments. Each deck would be approximately 6.7 sq. m. in size.

The estimated cost for the removal of the existing bridge and installation of decks is \$43,000.



Location of Bridge

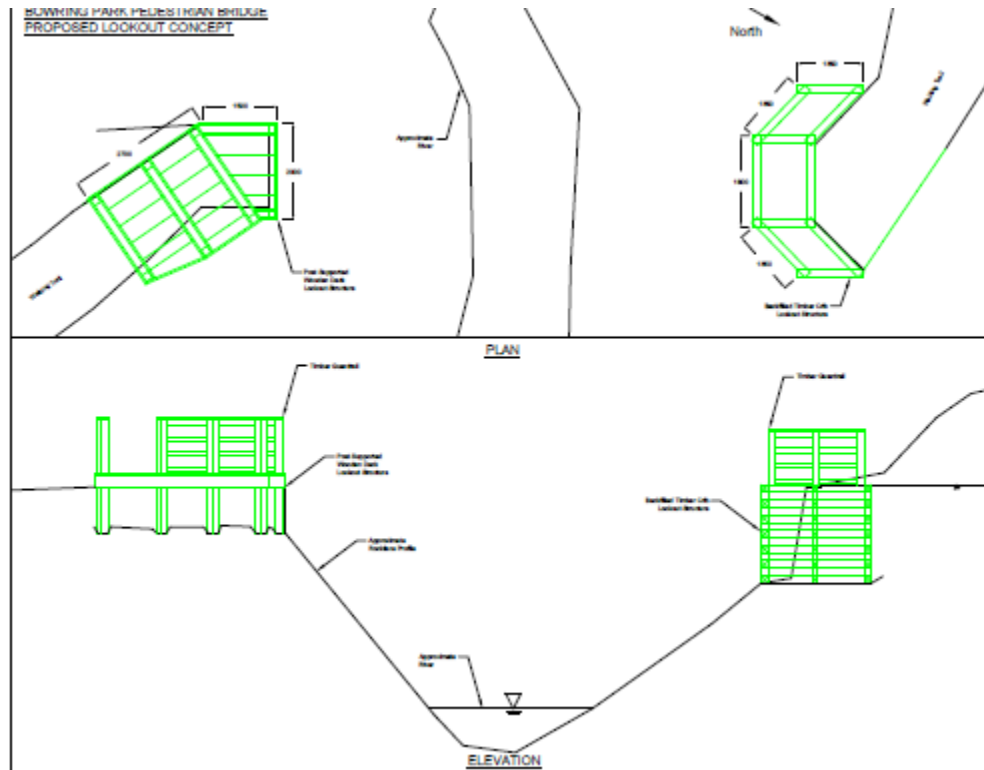


Whales Back Bridge



ST. JOHN'S

Viewing Deck Design



Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications
 - Bridge removal and replacement with similar construction: \$182,000 - \$275,000
 - Bridge removal and replacement with Observation Decks: \$43,000
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders
 - NA
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans
 - A Sustainable City
 - A City That Moves
 - A Connected City
4. Legal or Policy Implications
 - Existing structure is currently closed due to safety concerns. Removal is recommended.

ST. JOHN'S

5. Privacy Implications
 - NA
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations
 - Engagement with general public occurred in spring 2019 with no interest identified.
 - Bowring Park Foundation has been involved in discussions regarding options.
7. Human Resource Implications
 - NA
8. Procurement Implications
 - Public Procurement Act to apply
9. Information Technology Implications
 - NA
10. Other Implications
 - NA

Recommendations:

- The decommissioned Whale's Back Bridge be removed.
- The Whale's Back Bridge be replaced with two (2) observation decks.
- The observation deck project, at a cost of \$43,000 be referred to the 2020 Capital Works program, for consideration by Council.

Prepared by/Date: Brian Head, Manager Parks and Open Spaces

Approved by/Date: Lynnann Winsor, Deputy City Manager Public Works

December 4, 2019

Attachments:

ST. JOHN'S