

EDMONTON AND STRATHCONA COUNTY

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

UPDATED PRESENTATION TO PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

JULY 21, 2020



A Window of Opportunity

- Grant moneys available to the RVA from Provincial and Federal funds have an expiry date of December 2024.
- The RVA has approximately \$17 million dollars of uncommitted Provincial funds available and must deploy these remaining funds by this deadline or risk having to return unused funds to the Provincial Government.
- RVA sees this as a window of opportunity for two shareholder members, City of Edmonton and Strathcona County, to share in the 1/3 cost to construct a footbridge now, rather than wait for the Phase II funding.
- In order to proceed to the next step of completing this shared project, we are asking Strathcona County to contribute \$395,000 or 1/2 of the 1/3 cost to complete the concept plan, engagement and preliminary design.
- The remaining funds to finish the construction of the bridge would be coming forward to you in the 2021 capital budget.



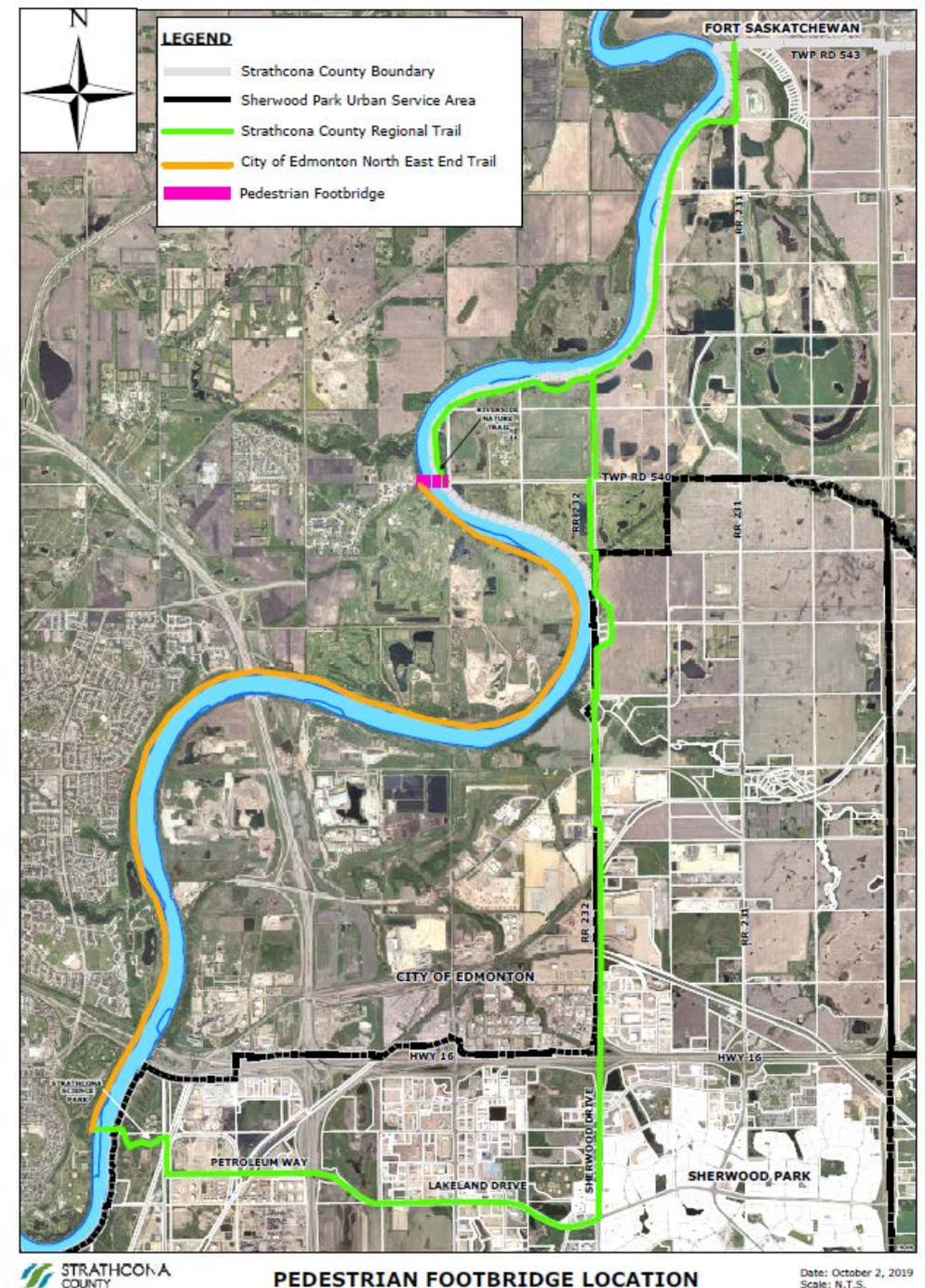
Why This Bridge, Why Now?

- In 2018 the RVA, City of Edmonton and Strathcona County initiated a feasibility study to explore a northeast Quarry Ridge-Strathcona County footbridge. The full report was completed in 2019.
- In July 2019, the RVA Board resolved to “direct all non-committed capital funds to the Edmonton East End Trails to Strathcona County footbridge, subject to the City of Edmonton and Strathcona County Council’s acceptance of their portion of the 1/3 cost of this bridge.”
- This bridge has always been in the RVAs 2007 *Plan of Action* approved by all seven shareholder municipalities.

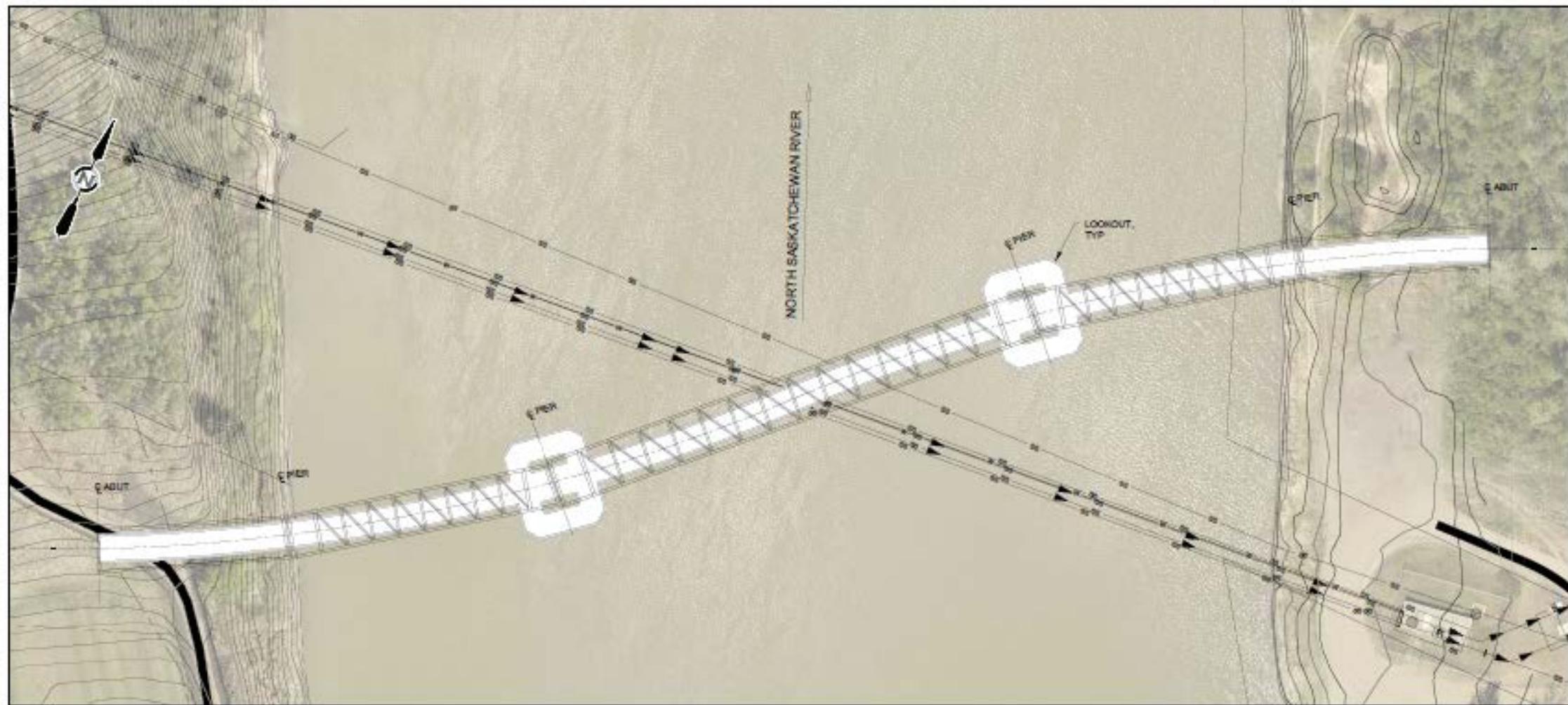


Location

- On the Strathcona County side, the bridge would be located at the trailhead of Riverside Nature Trail at Township Road 540. This location would offer a more desirable route to reach the Edmonton side of the North Saskatchewan river.
- The current route to cross the North Saskatchewan river from Fort Saskatchewan / Strathcona County to Edmonton is along Range Road 232 (Sherwood Drive) into Sherwood Park, west along Lakeland Drive / Petroleum Way that eventually reaches the Strathcona Science Park and crosses over the Rundle Park Footbridge into Rundle Park.
- This new bridge would allow users a crossover option that follows the riverbank on both sides, from the Riverside Nature Trail on the Strathcona County side to the East End trails on the Edmonton side. The Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission is in support of this project and has offered to provide land for a staging area.







PLAN 1:500



Artist's rendering

Social Benefit to Four Municipalities

With the addition of the Highway 15 footbridge connecting Sturgeon County to Fort Saskatchewan, four of the RVAs seven shareholders are positively impacted by this new amenity. Extrapolating census data, a total of ~225,000 residents would have direct and easy access to this bridge that will connect close to 70 kilometres of trails, from Fort Saskatchewan to west Anthony Henday bridge.

Sturgeon County	20,000
Fort Saskatchewan	25,000
Strathcona County*	100,000
City of Edmonton Ward 4*	<u>80,000</u>
	225,000

*These estimates do not include the expected population growth of approximately 70,000 residents in Edmonton's Horse Hill Area Structure Plan or future rural subdivisions in north Strathcona County.



Next Steps

- 2019 - Feasibility Study completed.
- 2020 - The City of Edmonton committed dollars to complete Concept and Preliminary Design.
- 2020 – The RFP for concept and preliminary design will be sent out within the next few weeks and will include indigenous and public engagement, Geotech and environmental study stage scheduled to begin in September. City of Edmonton have asked that Strathcona County contribute dollars towards the design. The remaining funds to finish the construction of the bridge would be coming forward to you in the 2021 capital budget.
- Concept design will determine structure type (girder, truss, etc.) as well as pier locations and a revised cost estimate which will allow for final budgeting decisions by Councils. City of Edmonton will project manage.
- A detailed Description of Work (DOW) is being prepared with input from all parties to determine an agreement between city of Edmonton, Strathcona County and the RVA.



Conclusion

There are several factors that present a compelling argument that the funding of this concept stage of the bridge and eventual construction is in the best interest of Strathcona County and of great benefit to their residents:

1. Given the time constraints of deploying the RVAs remaining capital dollars from the current Provincial and Federal grants, we need to act now.
2. Having to return money to the Provincial Government, in light of 2 extensions of our grant money, would seriously diminish our credibility as good stewards of taxpayer dollars. It would be difficult to acquire new grant money in this scenario.
3. Long term growth in this area will offer new residents an active transportation amenity that will enhance their property value and their quality of life in an area relatively underserved.

We ask that Strathcona County Council recognize the unique opportunity this project brings in achieving our mutual goal of connectivity and accessibility to metro Edmonton's river valley and fund their 1/2 of the concept and preliminary design phase of \$395,000.



Thank You

Questions?

