

NO: RO14

COUNCIL DATE: **FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 30, 2014**

FROM: **Acting General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **1713-062**

SUBJECT: **City Centre to Fraser Heights Neighbourhood Cycling Route & Bon Accord Creek Bridge**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Approve the implementation of the City Centre to Fraser Heights Neighbourhood Cycling Route (the “Cycling Route”) on an alignment as generally described in this report; and
2. Approve the construction of a new pedestrian and cycling bridge across Bon Accord Creek at 109 Avenue as part the Cycling Route. Staff will continue to work with the owners of the properties adjacent to the new bridge on mitigation measures.

BACKGROUND

The City’s Transportation Strategic Plan identifies the provision of transportation choices, including cycling as a key component of transportation investment within Surrey. In recent years the City has been expanding its cycling network by approximately 12 km a year.

PROJECT DETAILS

Under the Province’s Gateway Program the City applied for and has received a grant of up to \$1,159,870 (representing 50% of the total estimated project cost of \$2,319,740) for the construction of a bicycle route between Fraser Heights/Port Mann Bridge and the Surrey City Centre. These funds must be used by the end of 2014.

The 5 km route, including the crossing of Bon Accord Creek, is identified in both the Greenway Master Plan and the City’s Cycling Plan as part of the Bon Accord Greenway. The Greenway, as illustrated in Appendix I, connects to the planned Quibble Creek Greenway to the east and to the Fraser Heights Greenway. This new cycling route will cross the Port Mann Bridge by way of the 112 Avenue pedestrian and cycling overpass, which was constructed as part of the Highway 1 widening project. To the west, the Greenway connects to the BC Parkway, which within Surrey runs between the Scott Road/Pattullo Bridge area and the City Centre.

Full implementation of the greenway network will take a number of years and in the interim, staff has identified an on-street bicycle route that could be implemented utilizing low speed and low volume local roads. This is similar to the model used in South Surrey, where a bicycle path constructed in 2012 connects Ocean Park to Semiahmoo town centre.

It is proposed with respect to the proposed bicycle path, that initially the route will connect with the BC Parkway at King George Boulevard and University Drive. Further improvements will be proposed in 2015 to establish a connection to the City Centre at 108 Avenue.

The planned bridge at Bon Accord Creek, as illustrated in Appendix II, is located within a City road allowance on the west side and City park land (10907 – 144 Street) on the east side of the Creek. The City has been purchasing a significant amount of land along the Bon Accord Creek ravine to link Invergarry Park and Hawthorne Park, and to protect the riparian areas and ravine slopes in the immediate vicinity. The proposed bridge will ensure the entire community can access the park.

Construction of the proposed bridge will require the removal of 3 significant trees as defined by the City's Tree Protection By-law (No. 16100). While the City's Tree Protection By-law does not require tree removal permits for development on City land, the City's practice is to utilize best practices in tree protection and offset tree loss with the planting of new trees at suitable locations.

The bridge deck will be lit to ensure that good visibility is provided for all users of the bridge crossing at all times.

CONSULTATION

A Public Open House regarding the proposed bicycle route and related Bon Accord bridge was held on December 2, 2013 at Ellendale Elementary School. Invitations were forwarded to over 800 property owners along the proposed route and in the vicinity of the proposed bridge crossing. A total of 34 people attended the event. A comment sheet was distributed to those attending the open house as a means to solicit feedback on the proposal. A total of 25 completed comment sheets were returned to staff. Approximately 60% of those responding support the bridge and the bicycle route. The majority of those opposed indicated that they were concerned with the impact to the habitat of the ravine as well as the potential of anti-social behaviour.

HUB (formally the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition) has advised that they support the project as proposed. Staff has also presented the project to the Bolivar Heights Community Association who have acknowledged the benefits of the project and support investment into the community.

Discussion with Adjacent Property Owners

Concerns have been raised by the owners of the three residential properties that are located adjacent to the proposed bridge. One of the properties, at 10897 – 144 Street, will ultimately need to be acquired to support protection of the Bon Accord ravine and park corridor. Each of these three property owners has advised that they are concerned with the loss of privacy, the impact on the ravine in terms of tree loss and the potential for the new bicycle/pedestrian connection to attract anti-social behaviour and crime in the immediate area.

Engineering staff and Parks staff has had a number of on-site meetings with these property owners to discuss their concerns and suggestions, and to identify potential mitigation measures. The owners specifically questioned whether using the 109 Avenue corridor was appropriate in comparison to using the 110 Avenue corridor and suggested that 108 Avenue be used as an interim alignment for the bicycle path.

Staff will continue to discuss with the immediate neighbours of the proposed bridge mitigation measures that can be implemented as part of the project.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

The rationale of one of the residents for suggesting that the bridge be located on the 110 Avenue alignment at the south end of Invergarry Park was that such an alignment would have the effect of prompting the development of a comprehensive pathway network within the park, thereby promoting community fitness and would attract people from throughout the region to the natural wilderness area that makes up the park. The resident viewed the topography of the Park as a unique opportunity for the City.

Parks staff agrees that the concept for Invergarry Park in relation to a pathway network has merit but holds the view that such a concept can be achieved with the bridge crossing at 109 Avenue.

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (TIC)

Staff presented the project and resident concerns to the TIC at its meeting on January 20, 2014. The Committee supported alignment of the greenway along 109 Avenue. The 108 Avenue alignment has insufficient road allowance width to create a safe and comfortable pathway while the 110 Avenue route would require double the length of the bridge in comparison to the 109 Avenue alignment. This would double the cost of the bridge. The TIC made a resolution to Council endorsing the bridge crossing at 109 Avenue.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The promotion of walking and cycling is a fundamental part of reducing the reliance on the private car and supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter. The proposed bicycle pathway route and bridge will increase cycling opportunities in these north Surrey neighbourhoods. The route will provide a safe and comfortable cycling route between the City Centre and Fraser Heights and will connect with regional connections north of the Fraser River. As such, the project supports the following action items as contained within the City's Sustainability Charter:

- SC 13: Creating a Fully Accessible City; and
- EN 13: Enhancing the Public Realm.

CONCLUSION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

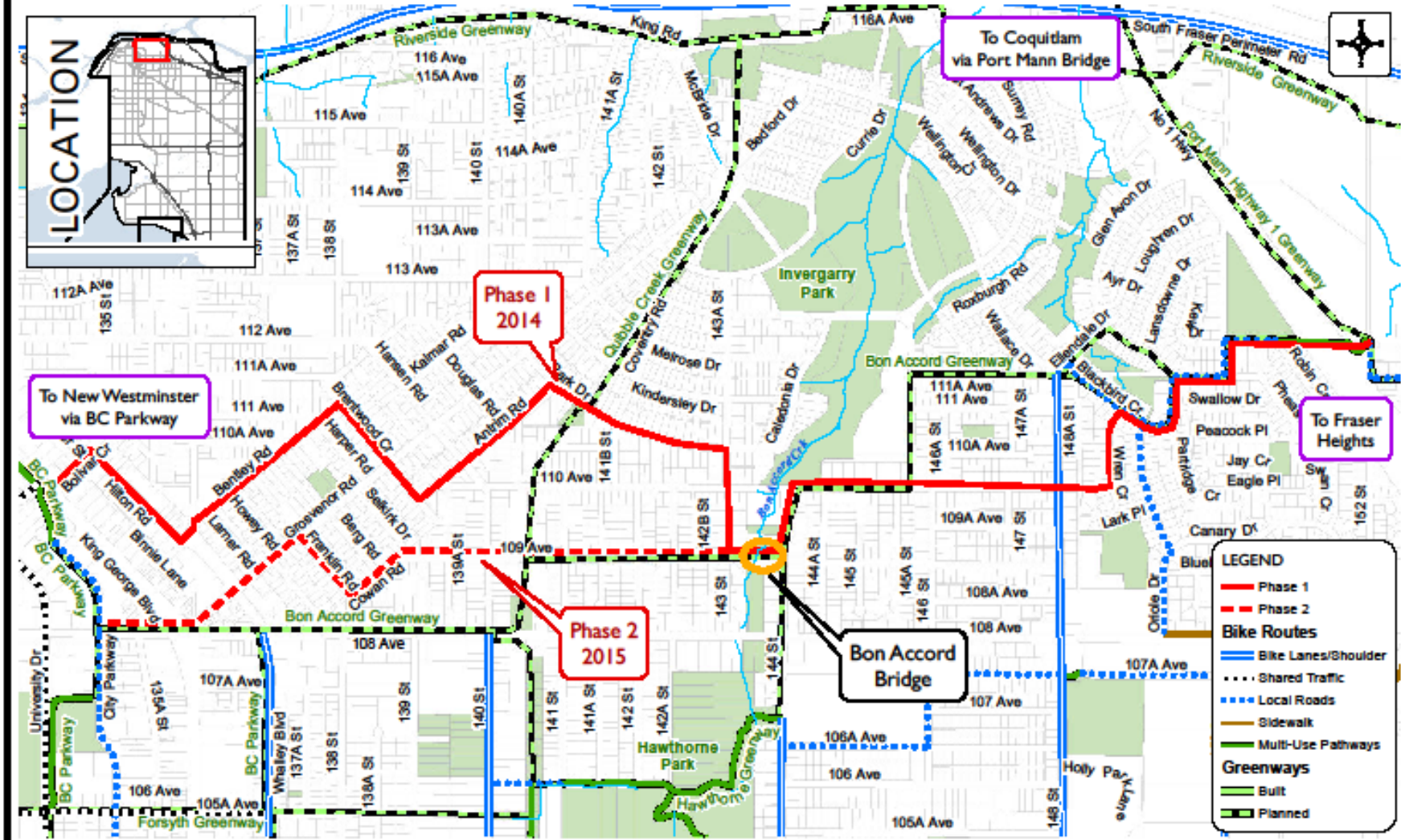
- Approve the implementation of the City Centre to Fraser Heights Neighbourhood Cycling Route (the “Cycling Route”) on an alignment as generally described in this report; and
- Approve the construction of a new pedestrian and cycling bridge across Bon Accord Creek at 109 Avenue as part the Cycling Route. Staff will continue to work with the owners of the properties adjacent to the new bridge on mitigation measures.

Gerry McKinnon
Acting General Manager, Engineering

OCC/JB/PB/TK/brb/ras

Appendix I: Port Mann to Surrey City Centre Neighbourhood Bike Route Map
Appendix II: Bon Accord Creek Bridge Plan on 109 Avenue Alignment

APPENDIX I



Produced by GIS Section: 23-Jan-2014, AW8



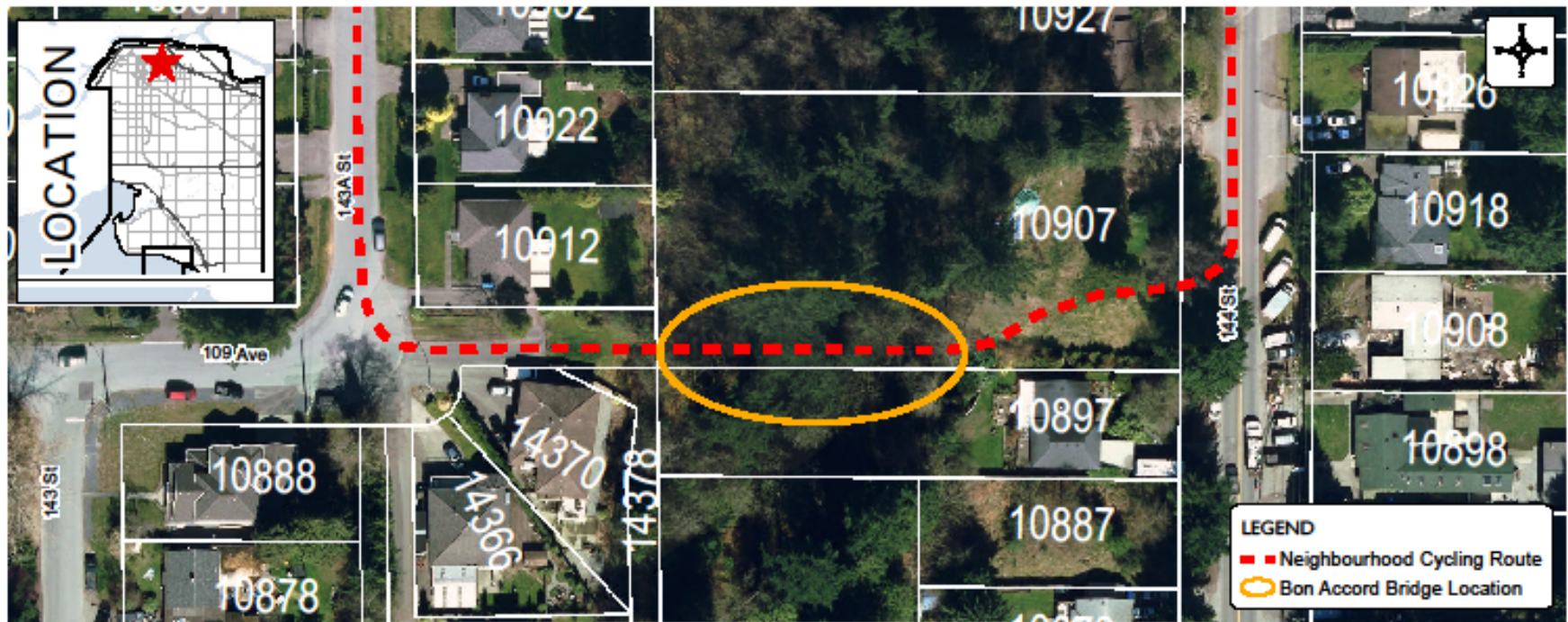
NEIGHBOURHOOD CYCLING ROUTE

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The data provided is compiled from various sources and IS NOT warranted as to its accuracy or sufficiency by the City of Surrey. This information is provided for information and convenience purposes only. Lot sizes, legal descriptions and encumbrances must be confirmed at the Land Title Office.

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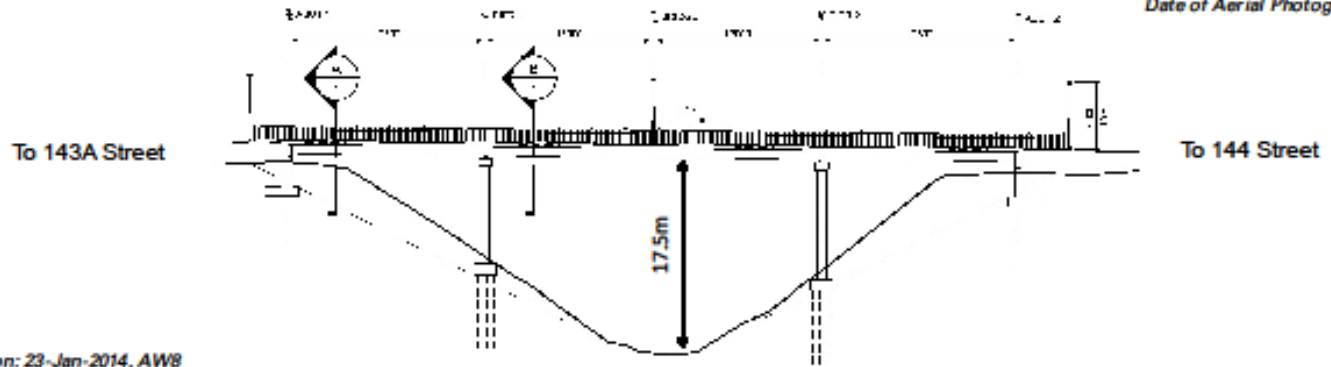
APPENDIX II



LEGEND

- - - Neighbourhood Cycling Route
- Bon Accord Bridge Location

Date of Aerial Photography: March 30, 2013



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BON ACCORD BRIDGE PLAN

**ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT**

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Source: G:\MAPPING\GISM\apps\Corporate\Report\Transp\AW-Bon Accord Bridge Plan-AP.mxd