

About the Columbia River Skywalk Project

UPDATE Wednesday, March 16, 2016:

Columbia River Skywalk is the name that has been selected for the Pipeline/Pedestrian Bridge that is currently being constructed and will span the Columbia River from Rotary Park (west) to McQuarrie Street (east) in Trail, BC.

UPDATE Wednesday, October 14, 2015:

The official Ground Breaking Ceremony for construction of the Pipeline/Pedestrian Bridge took place today at Rotary Park in Trail, BC. Mayor Mike Martin and Trail Council welcomed guests from the RDKB, the Village of Warfield, the City of Rossland, the Village of Fruitvale, Area 'A', TRUE Consulting, Graham Infrastructure LP and Buckland and Taylor. Former Mayor of Trail, Dieter Bogs, also attended the ceremony.



(Photo - left to right) Grace McGregor, Chair of the RDKB; Mike Martin, City of Trail Mayor; Diane Langman, Village of Warfield Councillor (on behalf of Mayor Ted Pahl); Kathy Moore, City of Rossland Mayor; Nedim Alca, Vice President Major Projects of Buckland & Taylor; and, Ronan Deane, Senior Project Manager of Graham Infrastructure LP, officially broke ground for construction of the Pipeline/Pedestrian Bridge on Wednesday, October 14th at Rotary Park.

UPDATE Friday, September 11, 2015:

Trail City Council has awarded the contract for construction of the Pipeline/Pedestrian Bridge to Graham Infrastructure LP in the amount of \$12.23 million.* More details of this project will be provided at a Public Consultation Meeting on Thursday, September 17th. The time, location and meeting agenda will be provided as soon as this information becomes available.

**The contract with Graham Infrastructure LP is for \$12.23 million. Additional costs for the project will bring the total to \$14.7 million. The Regional Sewer Service participants agreed to contribute \$7.2 million and the City of Trail has agreed to pay \$7.5 million. These costs are outlined in the [press release issued on September 9th](#).*

UPDATE Thursday, September 10, 2015:

The PDF document entitled "[Bridge Budgets 2015](#)" has been added to the press release issued Wednesday, September 9, 2015. This document is supporting information on Council's agreement to proceed with the project.

UPDATE September 9, 2015:

The municipalities of Trail, Rossland and Warfield, who are all members to the East End Regional Sewer Service, have now provided formal support for a resolution that could potentially result in the Pipeline/Pedestrian Bridge project proceeding this year. Read the [press release here](#).

UPDATE August 17, 2015:

The tenders for construction of the Pipe/Pedestrian Bridge came in over the anticipated budget. As a result, Council decided to reject all bids. Council is disappointed that the project will not proceed within the agreed timelines; however the City will be working with the RDKB Sewer Committee in the hopes of finding a solution.

UPDATE August 23, 2014: [Majority 'Yes' Results for Bridge Referendum](#)

UPDATE October 8, 2014: Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Media Release-
[SEWER DEAL REACHED](#)

The Pipeline/Pedestrian Bridge

The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) will spend approximately \$7,428,000 to construct a pipeline bridge spanning the Columbia River. This pipeline bridge will accommodate the regional sewer interceptor line, which must be moved off the old bridge. This portion of the project will commence in the near future as it is a necessity for the region.

In conjunction with this project, the City of Trail has the opportunity to add a pedestrian walkway, a secondary water line and a fibre-optic line (and possibly other utility lines), which will cost the City approximately \$5,816,000. Of this amount, the City intends to borrow \$4,916,000 by adopting a Loan Authorization Bylaw. If the City proceeds with the pedestrian walkway along with the other utility lines, there will be no property tax increase for the City's portion of the project.

Trail's citizens will have the opportunity to vote for whether Council should adopt the Loan Authorization Bylaw which would enable the City to partner in the project at an upcoming **referendum on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at the Trail Memorial Centre's McIntyre 8am-8pm**. If the majority vote is yes at the August 23rd referendum, Trail Council can adopt the Loan Authorization Bylaw and proceed with building the pedestrian walkway in conjunction with the RKDB's sewer pipe bridge. If the majority vote is no, the City will not proceed with the pedestrian walkway component and will not pursue the pedestrian walkway bridge at a later date. The RKDB will still proceed with a stand-alone sewer pipe bridge.

**The RKDB's cost above has yet to be approved by the RKDB and the Sewerage Committee. The final cost may change.*

The Referendum

Voting Day

Saturday, August 23, 2014 - Trail Memorial Centre - McIntyre Room - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Advance Voting

Wednesday, August 13th 2014 - Trail Memorial Centre - McIntyre Room - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, August 20th, 2014 - Trail Memorial Centre - McIntyre Room - 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Mail Ballot Voting

Mail ballot voting will be available for qualified electors who are unable to attend a voting place to cast their ballot. Please contact the Chief Election Officer at (250) 364-0800 for applications and/or more information.

See the Columbia River Pipeline/Pedestrian Bridge Loan Authorization Bylaw Referendum - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

The Design

Engineers at Buckland & Taylor Ltd. designed the bridge to feature single-leg tower pole masts and details on the decking, the handrails, the cables, and the pedestrian and aesthetic lighting have also been approved. From shore to shore the bridge will be 305 metres (1000 feet) long; one of the longest pedestrian suspension bridges in North America.

The Location

Several sites were evaluated in order to define the best location for the new bridge. It was therefore determined that spanning the Columbia River from Rotary Park to McQuarrie Street at Columbia Avenue would be the most suitable. Constructability (the contractors can work from on-shore locations versus working off barges in the water), topography, geotechnical conditions, close proximity to the existing sewer force main (the main pipe that carries sewage away from the collection area) near the Old Bridge and the ability for other utility companies' infrastructure to be suspended on the bridge were all taken into consideration when choosing the new site.

The Cost

The cost of the bridge includes engineering fees for design and construction services, supply, fabrication, shipping, installation, and structure construction. The funding for the bridge will be shared with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) based on the Regional sewer interceptor line being moved off the Old Trail Bridge and the RDKB's cost to build a stand-alone sewer pipe bridge. In order to finance the cost of the new bridge, *the City plans to borrow for its share of \$4,916,000, and to use the City's gas tax revenue to pay the annual debt costs. Therefore, there would be no direct property tax impact as a result of the construction.

****the upcoming referendum on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at the Trail Memorial Centre's McIntyre Room at 8am - 8pm will determine if the City proceeds with the pedestrian walkway portion of the bridge.***

Synergy of Construction & Costs

If the City of Trail were to proceed separately (build a pedestrian walkway bridge at different time and location as the combined pipeline/pedestrian bridge), the overall cost would increase drastically. It is much more cost-effective to build the structure in conjunction with the RDKB to create a multi-purpose bridge. Therefore, the City considers working with the RDKB on this project a one-time opportunity. If the majority vote is yes at the August 23rd referendum, Trail Council can adopt the Loan Authorization Bylaw and proceed with building the pedestrian walkway in conjunction with the RKDB's sewer pipe bridge. If the majority vote is no, the City will not proceed with the pedestrian walkway component, and engineering funds of in excess of \$400,000 that were spent for design will be lost given there will be no opportunity to cost effectively construct the pedestrian walkway bridge at a later date. The RDKB will still proceed with a stand-alone sewer pipe bridge.

Decommissioning of the Old Trail Bridge

Council has met with the Province of BC on several occasions pertaining to the decommissioning of the Old Trail Bridge. Trail Council believes the Province should

share in the decommissioning costs given the Province owned and operated the bridge for 60 percent of its useful life. Council will continue to pursue the matter with the Province with the goal of solidifying a plan in the next few years.

More Information

Visit our [FAQ page](#) or call City Hall at (250) 364-1262 for more information.

View info on the [Old Trail Bridge Closure](#)

View the City's informative [Referendum Newsletter](#)

View our online [promotional video](#) for the pedestrian bridge