

BACKGROUND

Colwood's Galloping Goose Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge

Bridge details:

- **Materials:** Steel spans with underlighting, stamped concrete abutments, concrete decking, paved MSE wall approach ramps protected by black powder coated fencing.
- **Railings:** "Reeds and branches" design with natural and durable synthetic wood railings at a height of 1.4m from the bridge deck to meet safety standards.
- **Bridge Length:** 80 metres from abutment to abutment (concrete wall supports under the bridge)
- **Bridge Width:** 4.0m clear width to allow users to pass comfortably in both directions
- **Grade:** The paved approach ramps are designed with a comfortable 5 percent grade from the trail to the elevated bridge deck to ensure accessibility for all users.
- **Paved portions:** approximately 25 metres and the City hopes to work with the Capital Regional District to have paving extended the length of the trail in Colwood.

Project delivery details:

- **Permitting:** The City was required to obtain permits to construct the bridge on the land which is located within Colwood but is owned and maintained by the Capital Regional District through a lease from the Province.
- **Underground infrastructure:** Upgrades to underground infrastructure: the City was required to install a length of dry sanitary sewer pipe for the CRD's future use should the trunk line need to be twinned for future sewer capacity.
- **Offsite fabrication:** The steel bridge spans were fabricated off-site at Surespan's facility in Duncan then lifted into place onsite to reduce traffic disruption.
- **Night work:** Installation of the bridge spans and decking across the road was scheduled overnight to reduce community and commuter impacts.
- **Ownership:** The bridge is owned and maintained by the City of Colwood.

Project partners:

- The Government of Canada and the Province of BC provided approximately \$3.6 million in joint grant funding for the Galloping Goose Bridge through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program. The total project cost was \$6.3 million.
- Surespan and Stantec: Civil construction and infrastructure experts contracted by the City of Colwood to construct the Galloping Goose Bridge.

- McElhanney: Geomatics, engineering, environmental, planning, and landscape architecture providers contracted by the City of Colwood for their project management expertise.
- Capital Regional District: Provided permits for the City of Colwood to construct the bridge on land they own and operate through a lease from the Province of BC.

Project budget:

Colwood's new pedestrian and cycling bridge was made possible thanks to a grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program. Federal and Provincial contributions provided \$3.6 million toward the \$6.3 million project cost.

Future connections:

Colwood is constructing a Multi-Use Pathway from the Lagoon Bridge along the length of the Colwood waterfront, connecting to new trails planned in the Beachlands development. This creates the opportunity to connect trail users from throughout the region who come across the bridge, down to the new waterfront trail to enjoy the Lagoon Beach and beyond to new amenities in the growing Beachlands and Royal Bay neighbourhoods.

Community benefits:

The Galloping Goose Regional Trail is a picturesque multi-use trail that runs through the heart of Colwood as it follows the old railway line on its 55km journey from Victoria to Sooke.

The trail, which is owned and maintained by the Capital Regional District through a lease from the Province, attracts thousands of users every day. From March 1, 2024 to March 1, 2025 a total of 270,077 pedestrians and cyclists have passed the automated counter on the Galloping Goose Regional Trail near Wale Road.

Prior to bridge construction, trail users were required to detour from the Galloping Goose Trail along Wale Road and Island Highway, waiting to cross at the light, then travelling up the sidewalk to rejoin the trail. This presented a critical safety issue when trail users tried to cross directly across the busy road.

Colwood's new Galloping Goose Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge will allow for a safe, seamless connection that encourages more residents and visitors to travel in and around Colwood on foot or by bike, supporting the City's goals for improved health and well-being, easing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and reducing our climate impact.

Media Inquiries

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