



Blackfriars Bridge – Long-term Use



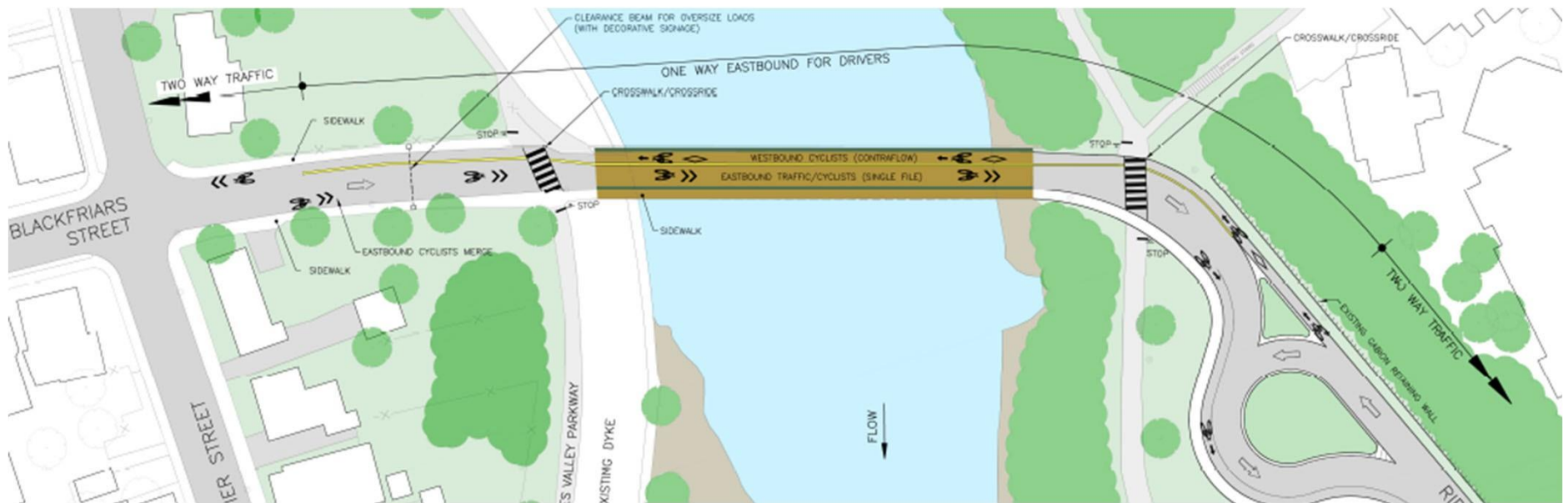
Civic Works Committee
Public Participation Meeting

June 13, 2023

Garfield Dales
Manager Transportation Planning & Design

Background

- A Traffic Study and Public Survey were completed.
- The volume of vehicles using the bridge reduced significantly after it was converted to one-way.
- Walking and cycling use of the bridge increases during the warmer months similar to increased use of the Thames Valley Parkway and nearby parks.





Long-term Use Assessment

Traffic Study Findings:

Typical daily crossings:

- 1,000 vehicle drivers (was previously 5,500)
- 800 pedestrians
- 140 cyclists

Minimal predicted traffic impacts to parallel river crossings associated with vehicle rerouting

Public Survey Results:

1,200 completed surveys; 50% of responses from nearby neighbourhoods

49% strongly agree with closing the bridge to car traffic, while 32% strongly disagree





Options Considered

1. Existing Configuration

- Year-round use for all users.

2. Dedicate the bridge to walking and cycling during the warmer months by prohibiting car traffic.

- Exclusive use by pedestrians and cyclists (no cars) from May 1 to October 31.
- Bridge available to all users, including vehicle drivers during the remainder of year.
- Gate or barrier system to be explored.

3. Dedicate the bridge to walking and cycling year-round by prohibiting cars permanently.

- A permanent prohibition of car traffic.
- A gate or barrier system to be explored.



Recommendation

All options are feasible.

Recommendation:

Option 2: Dedicate the bridge to walking and cycling during the warmer months by prohibiting car traffic from May 1 to October 31 annually.

Recommended to begin in 2024.

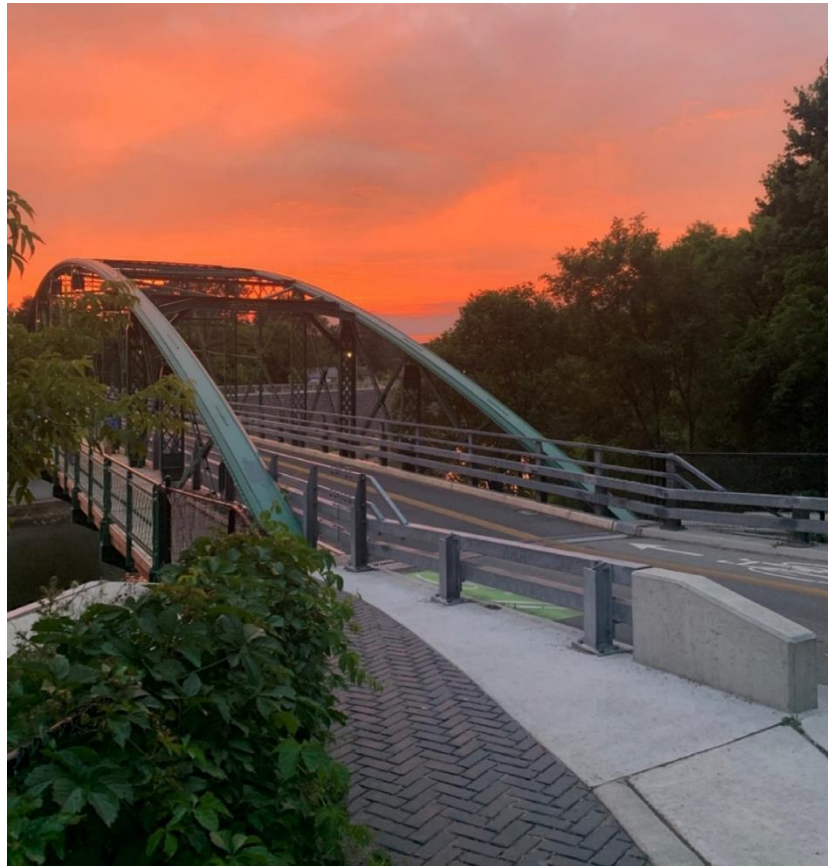


Next Steps

- Council Direction and By-Law Amendment
- Report to the Province by end of year to satisfy the environmental assessment condition
- Resident and driver notifications such as signage and social media
- Determine details such as a barrier or gate system
- Any restriction is recommended to commence in 2024 based on current construction traffic impacts around the Downtown



Thank You



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