

Presentation to City Council
on
Official Plan Amendment for
Emma Street to Earl Street Pedestrian Bridge

By

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WHY AN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT IS NEEDED FOR THE EMMA STREET BRIDGE

- THE OFFICIAL PLAN PROHIBITS LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE FROM INTRUDING INTO THE NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE FRAGMENTATION AND IMPACTS TO NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM FEATURES AND AREAS, AND THEIR FUNCTIONS.
- AN EXCEPTION TO THIS PROHIBITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE IS MADE IF THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS DEEMED ESSENTIAL. THE DEFINITION OF ESSENTIAL IN THE OFFICIAL PLAN IS

that (1) there is a demonstrated need, and (2) it has been demonstrated that no other reasonable alternatives exist.

THE RIVER SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PLAN PROVIDES THE REQUIRED STATEMENT OF NEED

- **AS EXPRESSED IN THE RIVER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN
“RIVERS AND RIVER CORRIDORS ARE UNDENIABLY PUBLIC;
PHYSICAL AND VISUAL ACCESS TO THEM MUST BE MAXIMIZED”**
- **PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE MAXIMIZATION OF
VISUAL ACCESS TO RIVER-CORRIDOR VIEWS**
- **THE RIVER SYSTEM MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN IDENTIFIES THREE
KEY LOCATIONS FOR NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES**

BRIDGES REQUIRED FOR RIVERSIDE TRAIL SYSTEM: EMMA STREET

The primary multi use recreational trail extends along the west bank of the river along the railway corridor. The City has considered using the railway corridor for the trail for hiking and bicycling for many years. This master plan supports the City's intentions and illustrates the rail corridor as the primary recreational trail with secondary routes along the river edge. The trail along the active rail corridor currently exists behind the Cardigan Street apartment buildings. Special treatment of the concrete wall, e.g. construction of a trellis/portico, is required to improve the appeal of this route. A public trail is also suggested along the east bank of the river, through the Homewood lands. A pedestrian bridge crossing is suggested at the foot of Emma Street.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

1. AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN PLANNING FOR RIVER-CORRIDORS IS STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED FOR INTIMATE HUMAN CONTACT FOR PERSONAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH AND THE NEED FOR PROTECTION OF VIABLE NATURAL ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS IN RIVER CORRIDORS.
2. PERMANENT RETENTION OF A RIVER SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN IN THE SUITE OF MASTER PLANS OF THE CITY IS ESSENTIAL IN ACHIEVING THE BALANCE BETWEEN HUMAN PHYSICAL MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH, EMPHASIZED IN A RSMMP, AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH EMPHASIZED IN NHS STUDIES

SPECIFIC CONCLUSIONS FOR EMMA STREET BRIDGE OPA

1. FOR AN OPA TO SUCCEED FOR THIS PROJECT THE CITY MUST ESTABLISH A NEED FOR A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT THIS LOCATION AND SHOW THAT NO OTHER SOLUTION IS AVAILABLE TO SATISFY THIS NEED.
2. THE RIVER SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL IN 1993 AS THE PERMANENT MASTER PLAN GUIDING RIVER CORRIDOR PROJECTS PROVIDES THE NECESSARY STATEMENT OF NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR SELECTION OF THIS LOCATION
3. THE BRIDGE SATISFIES THE EXPRESSED NEED FOR VISUAL ACCESS TO THE RIVER CORRIDOR WHILE ENHANCING THE NHS FUNCTIONS.