

In 2016, I was in support of the pedestrian bridge as a combination of the plan to improve the Speedvale Bridge and corridor.

Selfishly, I can admit that I would use the bridge to add a new dog-walking option and occasionally use it for bicycling, again as a new option.

Things change.

While this plan appears to already be approved, I do have some questions and concerns that have shifted my position to **Against**.

1. Cost-the last estimate was 2020. What is the new inflation adjusted cost of the previous \$3.6 million estimate?
2. With the WGI/Armtec sale pending for High Density Designation Zoning development, which eventually will add significantly more vehicles, can the City assure its residents that the bridge will indeed be limited to pedestrian and bicycle only?
3. Contamination – the banks along the Riverside Rapids Trail are contaminated with decades of industrial use from the Lead Paint shed, to broken glass and rusted metal bands and more., Who paying for this remediation?
4. The Sustaining our Future is mentioned in the City Official Plan Amendment 81 June 13, 2022- how can citizens be assured that this project doesn't interfere with the pristine wildlife along the Speed River? Is there any independent studies on this potential impact?
5. With existing bridges located so close, how does this project meet the definition of the term "essential". Are there are developments plans we're not aware of? (see #2)

Doug Stephens

June 24, 2022