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REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

SUBJECT **Update on Todd Creek Trestle Closure**

ISSUE

To update the Regional Parks Committee on the closure of the Todd Creek Trestle.

BACKGROUND

The Todd Creek Trestle was originally built as a part of the Canadian National Railway in 1917. The trestle structure was upgraded in 1956 and again in 1984 before the right-of-way was formally abandoned by the railway. In 1994, the trestle was upgraded to allow cycling and walking use of the trestle as part of the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.

In 2012, the Capital Regional District hired MacDonald and Lawrence Timber Framing to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the trestle. The assessment found that many of the supporting timbers for the trestle structure were in fair to poor condition.

The 2017 Regional Parks capital plan includes a project to initiate repairs for parts of the trestle. The project schedule called for these repairs to begin in the fall of 2017 and be completed by the spring of 2018. However, during an inspection in July 2017, staff noted a recent failure in a support post in one of the towers supporting the trestle. Subsequent to an evaluation of the failure, Stantec Engineering recommended closing the trestle to the public until repairs could be undertaken.

Remedial repairs to re-open the trestle prior to the major repairs planned in the fall of 2017 revealed that the supporting towers may not support the increased loads that would be present during the repair process. The consulting engineer therefore recommended that the trestle remain closed until the more comprehensive trestle repair project is completed.

Staff will retain professional consultants to undertake a detailed condition assessment of the Todd Creek Trestle to understand what has changed since the 2012 comprehensive assessment to refine the scope of the necessary repairs and the associated budget. Staff will update the Regional Parks Committee this fall on the results of that assessment and proposals to repair, modify or replace the trestle.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A bypass around the Todd Creek Trestle will be maintained that is suitable for pedestrians and equestrians. Cyclists are able to divert onto Sooke River Road for 4 kilometres from the Sooke River Road parking lot to Sooke Potholes Regional Park, where they are able to rejoin the Galloping Goose Trail. Information about the trestle closure has been communicated to the public on social media and through trail signage at multiple locations outbound from the City of Victoria, at the trail-head and at Sooke Potholes parking lot. Barricades on either end of the trestle are in place to ensure public safety. The expected date of the re-opening of the trestle will be communicated to the public once further information is available.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Todd Creek Trestle spans Todd Creek, which joins the Sooke River at Sooke Potholes Regional Park. In order to prevent impacts to Todd Creek from use of the bypass during the trestle closure, Regional Parks will install a temporary pedestrian bridge over Todd Creek.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The Regional Parks capital plan includes a total of \$1.2 million to complete repairs in 2018. Approximately \$610,000 is available for the project in 2017. Costs for completing the updated condition assessment and undertaking any necessary trail bypass improvements will come out of the 2017 project budget. Once further information is available from the condition assessment, staff will provide more detailed cost estimates for the repair.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) own the land on which the Galloping Goose Regional Trail is located. Staff have contacted MOTI staff and discussed the status of the Todd Creek Trestle and proposed next steps. MOTI staff is supportive of the direction being taken. Staff have contacted the T'Sou-ke Nation, who operate the campground at Sooke Potholes Regional Park, to provide them with information about the trestle closure and address any concerns they may have. Public service announcements have been sent to local governments notifying them of the trestle closure and updates will be provided as necessary.

CONCLUSION

The Todd Creek Trestle has been closed to the public due to concerns with the aging structure. An engineering assessment will be undertaken to determine the current condition of the trestle and provide options and recommendations for addressing its structural integrity. A bypass trail option will be provided during the trestle closure. Staff will bring back a staff report in the fall with the results of the engineering assessment, including options and estimated costs for repairing, modifying or replacing the Todd Creek Trestle.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That this report be received for information.

Submitted by:	Mike Walton, PhD, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

LW:km

Attachment: Attachment 1 – Location Map of Todd Creek Trestle