



# City of Port Moody

## Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: May 23, 2023  
Submitted by: Engineering and Operations Department – Project Delivery Services Division  
Subject: Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project Update

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### Purpose

This report provides an update to council for informational purposes on the Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project and a summary of the results of the stakeholder engagements completed on the project. The report also makes recommendations for the inclusion of a viewing platform at the location of house post #5 from the “In the Presence of the Ancestors” project.

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### Recommended Resolution(s)

**THAT the report dated May 23<sup>rd</sup> , 2023 from the Engineering and Operations Department – Project Delivery Services Division regarding the Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project Update be received for information.**

**AND THAT the viewing platform at house post #5 (from the “In the Presence of the Ancestors” project) be included for coordination with the Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project, as recommended in the report dated May 23<sup>rd</sup> , 2023 from the Engineering and Operations Department – Project Delivery Services Division regarding the Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project Update.**

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### Background

This report provides council with an update on the “Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project” and summarizes the results of the recent stakeholder engagement for both the boardwalk and the potential viewing platform at site #5 of the “In the Presence of the Ancestors Project”.

The Shoreline Trail boardwalks were originally constructed by City crews over thirty years ago as part of a larger trail system connecting Rocky Point Park to Old Orchard Park across the tidal mud flats and marshes. These unique wooden structures are aging and are frequently covered by water during king tides and storm surges. An engineering assessment determined that the boardwalks and bridges will need to be replaced within the next few years and a capital project was started for this replacement. The need to replace this infrastructure became visibly clear following the failure of one of the trail bridges during a high tide in December 2022 that has resulted in a section of this shoreline trail boardwalk trail being closed for safety.

The City retained consultants to review the existing site constraints and develop design options based on the City's criteria to:

- Replace or rehabilitate the aging boardwalks, bridges, and trail,
- Address future sea-level rise and minimize trail closures due to overtopping,
- Increase accessibility to the boardwalks for all users,
- Restrict access from the public to the environmental sensitive areas,
- Improve safety by restricting public access to the mudflats,
- Minimize disturbance to the environment and areas of Indigenous cultural importance during construction, and
- Retain the uniqueness and overall character of the trail.

Various options were developed that considered design parameters such as alignment, materials, methods of addressing sea-level rise. A comparative review of the various options identified that any alignment outside the existing footprint would be challenging to build without negatively impacting the environmentally sensitive areas.

Figure 1 presents a rendering of the proposed design for the replacement of the boardwalk and bridges. As shown in the rendering, the boardwalk is wider and is elevated to accommodate rising sea levels due to climate change, with railings added for improved safety. Based on considerations of the environmental and archaeological assessments coordinated with budget review, the gravel trail connecting the boardwalks and bridges could remain as gravel or could be replaced in part by extending the boardwalks. Extending the boardwalk to replace some of the existing gravel trails will reduce flooding within the existing trail and provide an opportunity for environmental restoration in these areas.



Figure 1 – Rendering of Proposed Boardwalk Design at Noons Creek

The proposed construction approach includes the use of helical screw piles to support the new boardwalks and bridges. These lightweight foundations are screwed into the soils and can be installed with minimal disturbance to the surrounding area and will last 75+ years. It is also

possible to install the sections of boardwalk crossing the mud flats from above (on the boardwalk) without the need to operate machinery in this sensitive area of water and mudflats.

The “In the Presence of Ancestors” project will raise five house posts along Port Moody’s shoreline, and there is an opportunity to connect an additional viewing platform where one of the house posts (#5) would be installed. Figure 2 shows a rendering of this platform which would be located at the existing viewpoint at the end of the trail from the Trasolini field access point.



Figure 2 – Rendering of Proposed Viewing Platform at House Post #5.

Given the close proximity of the house post viewing platform to the boardwalk project staff are coordinating between the two projects. Collaboration would reduce the overall impact to this area during construction including trail users, reduced project costs, and result in improved access to this popular existing viewpoint. Additionally, the viewing platform would manage safe and legal public access to the mudflats and reduce the environmental impact on this sensitive area.

Permitting for construction is currently being finalized and construction of the project is scheduled to start in August 2023 pending favourable tenders. Construction timing is scheduled to fit within the environmental windows and also to enable to project to meet the completion deadlines for a federal grant that is supporting the project. Note that an interim temporary bridge crossing should be in place within the next month to address the bridge damaged during the December 2022 King Tide.

## Discussion

As part of the detailed design development, staff have been consulting with First Nations groups through their project referrals processes. In addition, staff conducted engagement sessions with the following stakeholders:

- Port Moody Ecological Society
- Burrard Inlet Marine Enhancement Society
- Burke Mountain Naturalists
- Trails BC Southwest Region
- Port Moody Historical Society

The engagements comprised an in-person meeting and walkthroughs of the site with a verbal presentation and the renderings of the proposed design shared. The following questions were posed:

- If the project should be undertaken at all or whether be better to permanently close and decommission this section of the trail?
- What about the boardwalk designs do you think works well?
- What would you change about the proposed boardwalk designs?
- Is there anything we've missed for the boardwalk design, bridges, or trails?
- For the proposed viewing platform that would be built as part of the shoreline boardwalk trail but which would be part of the "In the Presence of the Ancestors" project, do you support the addition of a viewing platform at this location?

The general feedback from all stakeholders was extremely supportive of both the proposed design for the boardwalk replacement and the addition of the viewing platform at the location of house post #5 from the "In the Presence of the Ancestors" project. A record of the feedback received from each engagement is appended to this report. The key points are summarized as follows:

- There was unanimous support for the project as described.
- The public will continue to access the area regardless resulting in continued damage to this sensitive area.
- The improved accessibility will be a community benefit.
- The viewing areas and platform are a great community amenity.
- There was overall support for raising the height of the boardwalk.
- The railing would provide improved public safety.
- The proposed construction approach using helical screw piles was supported.

## Other Option(s)

THAT the viewing platform for the "In the Presence of the Ancestors" project is not completed as part of the Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project.

## Financial Implications

Costs would increase in totality to the City if the viewing platform was not coordinated with the boardwalk project and be implemented separately.

## Communications and Civic Engagement Initiatives

The project will be featured in the spring/summer edition of the Focus newsletter. Additionally, the project website, including a question and comment form, is now live, with promotion scheduled in the coming weeks to align with the delivery of the Focus. In June, staff are planning two on-trail pop-up events to inform and answer questions from the public about the Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project.

## Council Strategic Plan Objectives

The project aligns with the following objectives from the Council Strategic Plan.

### **Resilient Natural Environment**

- Protect, integrate, and enhance our natural assets
- Advance climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Enhance and expand parkland and open spaces

### **Healthy Community Development**

- Enhance community well-being

## Attachment(s)

1. Attachment 1 - Stakeholder Feedback May 2023 - Shoreline Trail Boardwalk

## Report Author

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## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Shoreline Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project Update.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Stakeholder Feedback May 2023 - Shoreline Trail Boardwalk_Redacted.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 16, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks - May 15, 2023 - 2:03 PM

Anna Mathewson, General Manager of Community Services - May 15, 2023 - 2:18 PM

Stephanie Lam, City Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services - May 15, 2023 - 3:49 PM

Lindsay Todd, Manager of Communications and Engagement - May 15, 2023 - 4:00 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - May 15, 2023 - 4:06 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Tim Savoie, City Manager was completed by workflow administrator Stephanie Lam, City Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services

Tim Savoie, City Manager - May 16, 2023 - 9:59 AM