



## Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

February 6, 2024

Hon. Nils Clarke  
Minister of Highways and Public Works  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister Clarke,

**RE: Takhini River Bridge on the Mayo Road – Project Scope**

Recently, your colleague Minister Mostyn announced funding for a project to make changes to the Takhini River Bridge on the Mayo Road (North Klondike Highway).

This follows your indication to me last summer that you had identified \$6.375 million in funding to expand the Takhini River Bridge. Based on your government's announcement, I understand that \$8.5 million is now budgeted for the project.

You will recall that last summer, I wrote to you with a list of questions about the details of the project. In your response dated July 11, 2023, you indicated that you were not able to provide some of those answers yet, and stated that the "project is still in the early stages of planning."

As well, your letter said, "As part of this review, the consultant will be evaluating ways to increase safety of all users of the bridge." While we welcomed that indication, it remains unclear if the project as currently planned will actually address the public's top concern of traffic safety.

The number one issue people raise about the Takhini River Bridge on the Mayo Road is how dangerous this narrow bridge is for vehicle traffic. Whether the bridge is widened or replaced with a new bridge, my constituents want a bridge that has a wider road width for motor vehicles.

Any project that does not include widening the vehicle lanes on the Takhini River Bridge will miss dealing with the number one public concern and priority. In addition to accidents, people frequently report close calls and dangerous situations involving vehicles meeting on this narrow bridge. While some would like to see a walkway added for pedestrians, cyclists, and other users, the main issue that needs to be addressed is widening the road surface for vehicles to improve safety.

During the recent press conference, your colleague even acknowledged this problem, calling this bridge "a dangerous crossing".



Since the scope of the project has not been clearly communicated by your government, my constituents and I would appreciate more information about the project, and the changes that are being planned.

Would you please provide me with answers to the following questions I asked last summer?

- 1) What changes to the Takhini River Bridge to accommodate active transportation are being planned?
- 2) Will the Takhini River Bridge be widened to increase the road width available for motor vehicles?
- 3) Do the current plans envision adding one or two walkways to the outside of the Takhini River Bridge? If so, will this be designed to accommodate multiple user groups, including pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, ATVs, and snowmobiles?
- 4) Are changes planned to improve safety for those user groups on the hill above the Takhini River Bridge?
- 5) Are changes planned to improve safety near the Takhini River Bridge inside City limits?

Thank you in advance for your answers, and any additional information you are able to provide.

Safety on this bridge is very important to many of my constituents and other people who travel across it frequently, and I again urge you to ensure that there is proper public consultation on the proposed details of the project, including public meetings where people have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. I urge you to ensure that my constituents are listened to, and that the bridge project is modified to reflect their priorities and to improve traffic safety.

Would you please provide me with a timeline of when public consultation will take place?

Sincerely,

Brad Cathers  
MLA for Lake Laberge