



## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL OPERATIONS

1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, B.C. V2L 3V9

---

**DATE:** June 14, 2010  
**TO:** Mayor & Council  
**FROM:** Bill Gaal, Superintendent of Operations  
**SUBJECT:** Cameron Street Bridge – Heritage Span

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Staff Report be received.
2. THAT Council approve the replica Howe Truss structure to be built in the Cottonwood Island Park as the Heritage component of the Cameron Street Bridge Project.

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update regarding the heritage component of the Cameron Street Bridge project.

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The heritage component of the Cameron Street Bridge project supports City Council Strategic Plan by Increasing Civic Pride. Providing interpretation and conserving the heritage value of the historic Cameron Street Bridge structure will have current meaning to residents as well as provide an opportunity to continue a historic legacy to future generations.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Cameron St. Bridge Replacement construction contract included a provisional work item to salvage a section of the old timber structure and re-construct the section at a public location. The awarded contract sum for this work was \$200,000 (Staff Report to Council March 2008).

Complications with the proposed display site location at the Railway and Forestry Museum site required that the salvaged bridge superstructure was put into storage at the City yard pending the results of the Flood Risk and Controls Solutions Study and a decision by Council regarding the possible expansion of the lease area provided by the City to the Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum. (Report to Council August 2008)

The total amount paid to the contractor for the salvage work that was actually completed was \$105,162.00. The bridge section remains in storage at the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue City Yard.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

City Staff have identified two options to preserve and provide interpretation on the heritage value of the Howe Truss bridge structure. On May 27, 2010 Staff made a presentation to the Prince George Heritage Commission regarding the two options, which are:

1. Existing Heritage Span – display the existing timber span at a location and manner that would meet environmental requirements. Due to creosote contamination concerns, a concrete containment pad to collect storm runoff water would have to be constructed for this option. The bridge section would be for display purposes only and would not be a functioning asset.
2. Replica Howe Truss – create a replica of the Howe Truss design and attach this façade to the new pedestrian crossing proposed for installation at Cottonwood Island Nature Park, and provide interpretive signage regarding the Howe Truss design and the historic significance that the Cameron Street Bridge crossing has had on the community over the last 75 years.

The Prince George Heritage Commission reviewed these options and on May 27, 2010 unanimously moved “the adoption of Option 2 as outlined and that the Cameron Street Bridge subcommittee develop interpretive options for salvage of the remaining wood”.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

A replica of the Howe Truss design at the Cottonwood Island Park along with interpretive signage will preserve the memory of the Cameron Street Howe Truss structure and will meet the heritage objective of the Cameron Street Bridge project. The new foot bridge is in a location near the Nechako River as well being near to the Historic Site of the old Howe Truss crossing to lend historical context to the replica. The additional access to the Cottonwood Island Nature Park will enhance the importance of this crossing.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bill Gaal,  
Superintendent of Operations

To: Mayor and Council

