

WHAT WE HEARD: HIGHWAY 95 KICKING HORSE RIVER BRIDGES 1 & 2 PROJECT



125
people attended
the open house



97
responses
online



46
written
responses



About The Project

The Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 provide a key regional link between Highway 1 and several communities along Highway 95 between Golden and Cranbrook. Highway 95 also links Highway 1 with Highway 3 and two border crossings to the United States, as well as Highway 93 to Kootenay National Park and Alberta. While both bridges are still safe for users, they are nearing the end of their service life, causing them to require either rehabilitation or replacement. Additionally, both bridges exhibit limited bridge clearance resulting in ice jams that cause bridge closures and significant impacts to the community.

Engagement Process

On June 23, 2022, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure held an open house in the Town of Golden to provide an overview of the Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project and present a new project concept for public comment and review. There were over 125 attendees at the open house.

Participants were asked to provide written or online feedback after viewing the open house information boards (Appendix A), consisting of three multiple choice questions and two open ended questions (Appendix B).

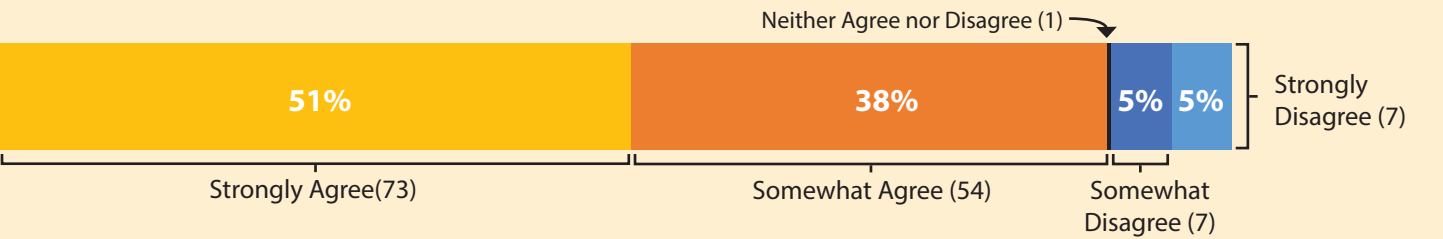
- ☒ Please indicate your level of agreement with the **overall design**.
- ☒ Please indicate your level of agreement with the new **highway alignment**.
- ☒ Please indicate your level of agreement with the design of the new **multi-use pathway**.
- ☒ Is there anything we've missed in this new design that you would like the ministry to be aware of?
- ☒ Please provide additional comments regarding the Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project.

What We Heard - Feedback Forms, Multiple Choice Responses

Overall, the majority of respondents agreed with the overall design, the highway alignment and the multi-use path.

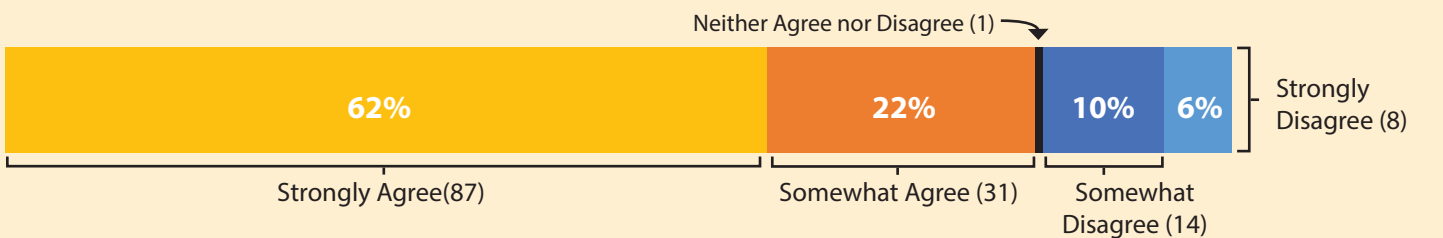
Figure 1: Level of agreement with the overall design, highway alignment and multi-use pathway.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the overall design. (n=142)



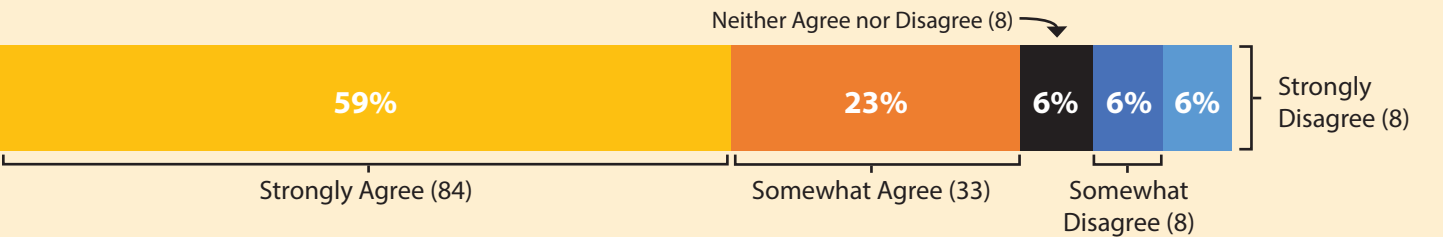
Eighty-nine percent (89%) of respondents either strongly or somewhat agree with the overall design concept.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the new highway alignment. (n=141)



Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondents either strongly or somewhat agree with the new highway alignment.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the design of the new multi-use pathway. (n=142)



Seventy-seven percent (77%) of respondents either strongly or somewhat agree with design of the new multi-use pathway.



Kicking Horse River Bridge Concept

What We Heard – Feedback Forms, Written Feedback

The two open ended questions received a total of 136 comments. As both questions received similar responses, the feedback was grouped and analyzed together (Figure 2).

The top themes that emerged were:

- Multi-use pathway and active transportation design and maintenance (38 comments)
- Support for the overall design (18 comments)
- Public realm (art, landscaping, greenspaces) (10 comments)
- Desire for four lanes (10 comments)

All comments were analyzed and grouped into themes. Themes that received more than four comments are described below.

Multi-Use Pathway & Active Transportation Design and Maintenance *(38 comments)*

The top theme that emerged was with respect to investments in active transportation infrastructure (38 comments).

Sixteen comments discussed the importance of safe pedestrian facilities. Many are supportive investments that create more walkable communities and discuss how the designs should prioritize those on foot. Four comments suggested an additional pedestrian crossing (between the cinema and 8th Street, or on the south side of 11th Avenue) as an alternative option. Three comments mentioned the preference for sidewalks on both sides of the highway.



Twelve respondents highlighted the desire for a safe cycling lane alongside the highway, with three comments noting, similar to sidewalks, that the lanes should be located on both sides of the highway. Two comments suggested that the old bridge should be kept and used for cyclists.

Eight respondents were concerned that the multi-use pathway might be impeded by water, ice or snow for much of the year and stressed the importance of maintaining the trail, year-round. Alternatively, an above grade pathway not vulnerable to ice jams was suggested to ensure access during the winter.

Support for Overall Design

(18 comments)

Many respondents expressed satisfaction with the overall design (18 comments). Comments mentioned that the graphics were clear, the design was thorough, and the project will bring many benefits to the community.

Public Realm Enhancements (art, landscaping, greenspaces)

(10 comments)

Three respondents suggested more landscaping is required than what was illustrated in the design, which complements the existing character of Golden and its connection to the outdoors. Many proposed the incorporation of public art such as murals, sculptures, or an acknowledgement to the Secwepemc and Ktunaxa Peoples. Three respondents also discussed the importance of Kumcheen Park. Comments included the importance of local greenspaces and the need to ensure it stays accessible with enough parking.

Desire for Four Lanes *(10 comments)*

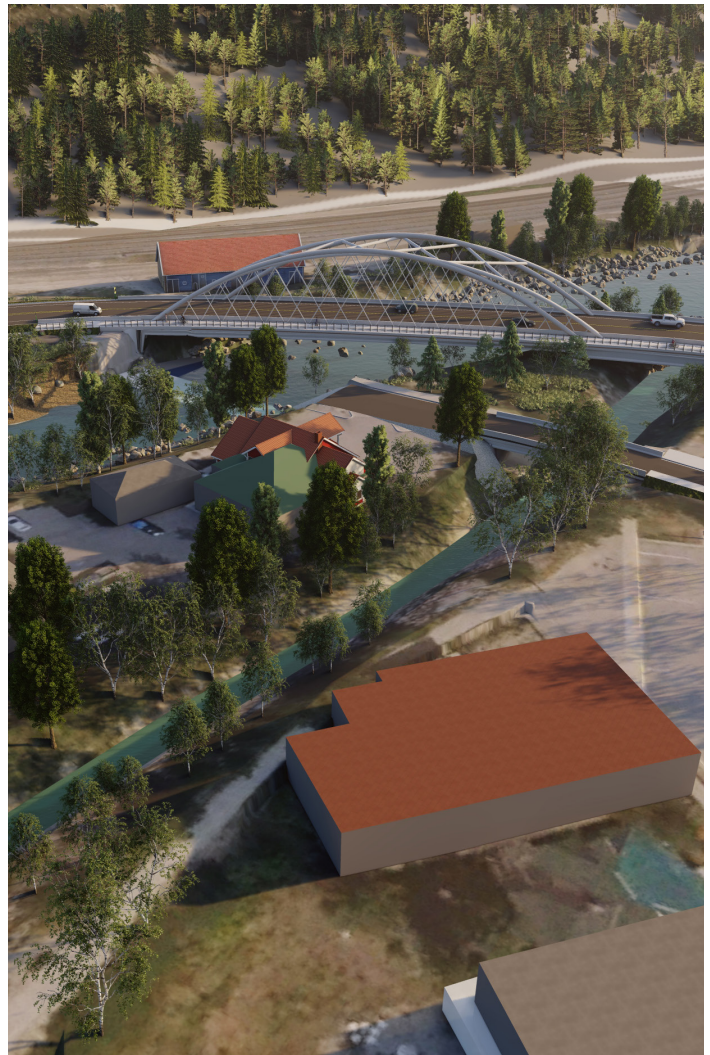
While most respondents were happy with the proposed design, several (10 comments) expressed that they would like to see the bridge have four-lanes to accommodate for future population growth.

Straighter Bridge Approach *(9 comments)*

Eight respondents were unhappy with the alignment of the bridge, commenting that the roadway should be straighter. Seven respondents also said that they would like to see the highway go through the CP Rail parking lot which would aid in a straighter alignment for the bridge.

Support for Accelerated Construction Timelines *(9 comments)*

Nine respondents noted that this project is long overdue and would prefer that it is completed as soon as possible.



Kicking Horse River Bridge Concept

Concerns over Vehicle Access

(8 comments)

Eight respondents were concerned with access for vehicles. Respondents highlighted the need to maintain a direct left turning lane towards the townhall/hospital to avoid traffic bottlenecks and access businesses.

Concerns about Safety (8 comments)

Safety was also top of mind for eight respondents – particularly for seniors, children and youth. The alignment of the multi-use pathway should consider the most user-friendly, accessible, and shortest route, otherwise many will take shortcuts which can create safety hazards. Respondents were also concerned about pedestrians’ ability to feel safe crossing the bridge.

Concerns Regarding Limited Parking (7 comments)

Respondents (7 comments) noted that more parking was needed downtown, on both sides of the bridge, at Kumsheen Park, and in Golden overall. Three respondents stated that designing the highway closer to the railway tracks would allow for more parking in town.

Concerns about Speeding

(5 comments)

Five respondents discussed the importance of traffic calming/speed control measures for traffic crossing the bridge and along Highway 95. Two comments discussed how widening and straightening this stretch of road could exacerbate speeding drivers in the area. Speed control measures that were recommended include roundabouts, lower speed limits, or photo radars.

Desire to Keep the Old Bridge

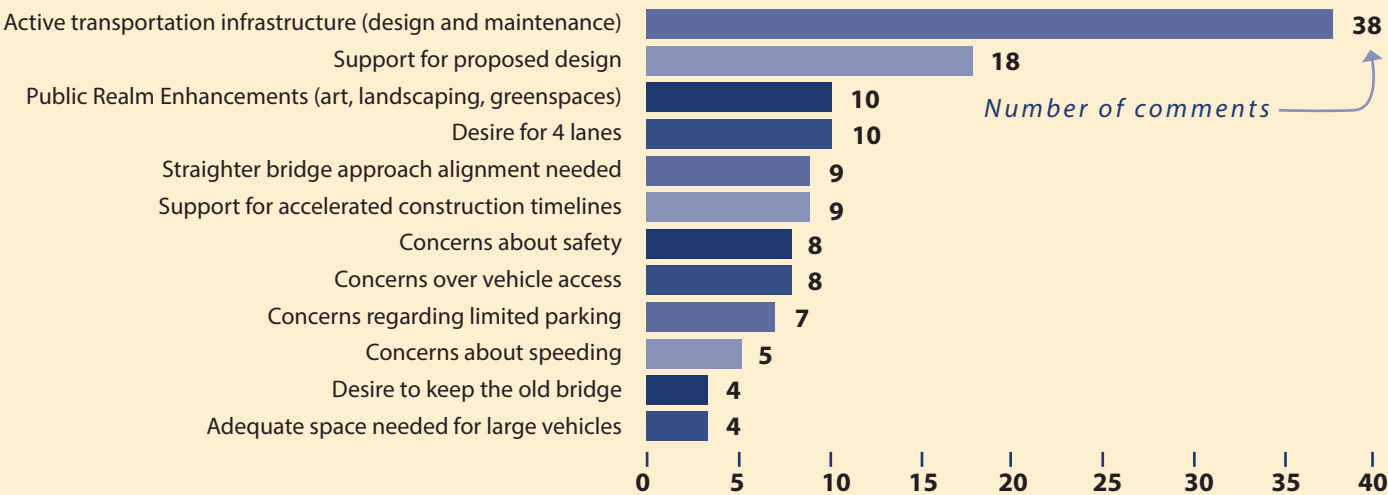
(4 comments)

Three respondents suggested that the old bridge be kept for cyclists and pedestrians only. One stated that it should be kept as it would improve vehicle circulation in the area.

Adequate Space Needed for Large Vehicles (4 comments)

Four respondents discussed how the bridge should be designed with large vehicles in mind. This would ensure that there is enough room for large vehicles to turn, or to pull over in emergency situations.

Figure 2. Top themes emerging from open-ended feedback form questions



Appendix A:

Open House Panels

Welcome to the

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

Open House

We would like to acknowledge that this project is located within the traditional territory of the Secwepemc and Ktunaxa peoples, whose ancestral connection with the land continues today.

OPEN HOUSE OBJECTIVES



Aerial view of existing Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2

To provide an overview of the **Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project** and present a new concept for public comment and review.

Feedback will be utilized to complete the design and business case for the bridges.

After reading the open house panels, we invite you to submit your **feedback**:

- In-person, at today's open house
- Online at: Gov.bc.ca/highway95goldenbridges
- Mail your feedback form to:

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Attn: Tim Dyer, Project Manager
310 Ward Street
Nelson BC V1L 5S4



scan to fill out the
online feedback form

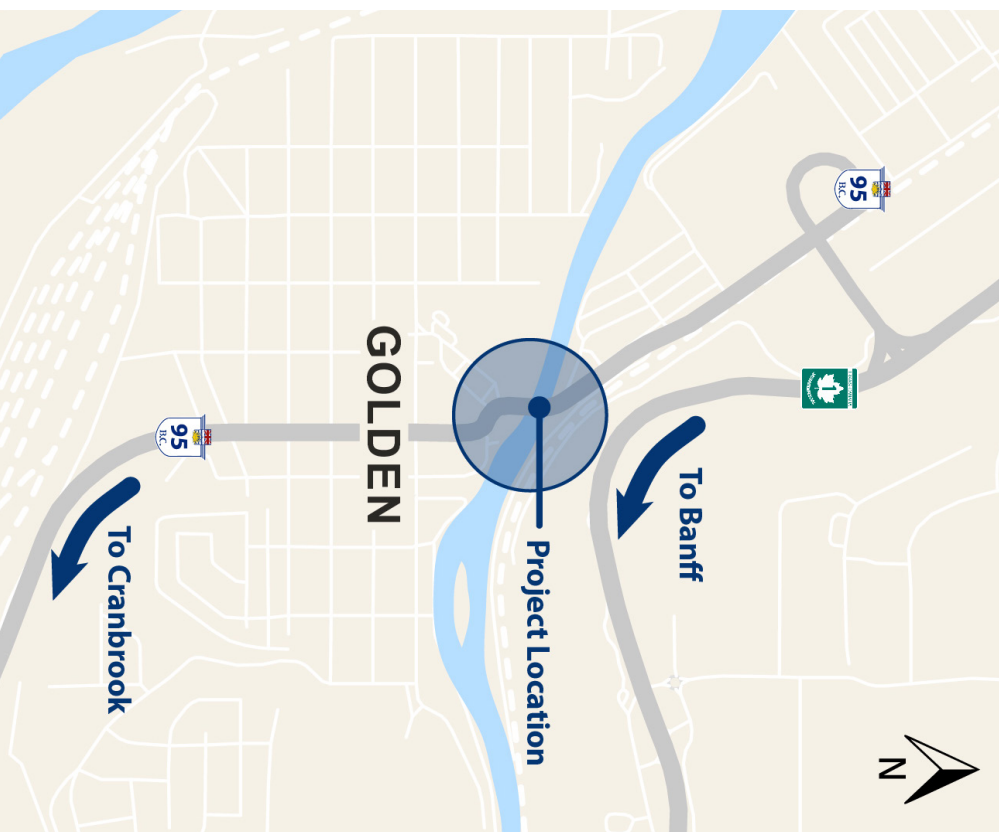
Questions?

Visit Gov.bc.ca/highway95goldenbridges or contact GoldenBridges@gov.bc.ca

Please submit your feedback by
July 15, 2022

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HIGHWAY 95 KICKING HORSE RIVER BRIDGES 1 & 2



The Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges provide a key regional link between Highway 1 and several communities along Highway 95 between Golden and Cranbrook.

Highway 95 also links Highway 1 with Highway 3 and two border crossings to the United States, as well as with Highway 93 to Kootenay National Park and Alberta.

The bridges see average daily traffic volumes of 13,000 vehicles per day and provide the only link between the north and south sides of Golden. It also includes a small stretch of road to Gould's Island.

The Kicking Horse River Bridges provide an **essential connection** for residents and tourists to businesses, services and amenities in the area.

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

WHY DO THE BRIDGES NEED TO BE REHABILITATED OR REPLACED?

Built in 1952, both Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 are nearing the end of their service life. While the structures are still safe for users, rehabilitation or replacement of the bridges is required due to:

- **Bridge foundation, structural components and concrete abutments:** The bridges are at the end of their useful life and require significant rehabilitation or replacement.
- **Limited bridge clearance:** Both bridges are vulnerable to ice jams, which can put both structures at risk.

Ice Jams

The existing Kicking Horse River Bridge 1 experiences frequent ice build up during the winter. When temperatures warm, ice can release, move downstream and back up under the bridge. **This past winter and others, ice jams have caused bridge closures and significant impacts to the community.**

Kicking Horse River Bridge 2 is less susceptible to ice jams as it crosses the side channel, which is more protected from Gould's Island.

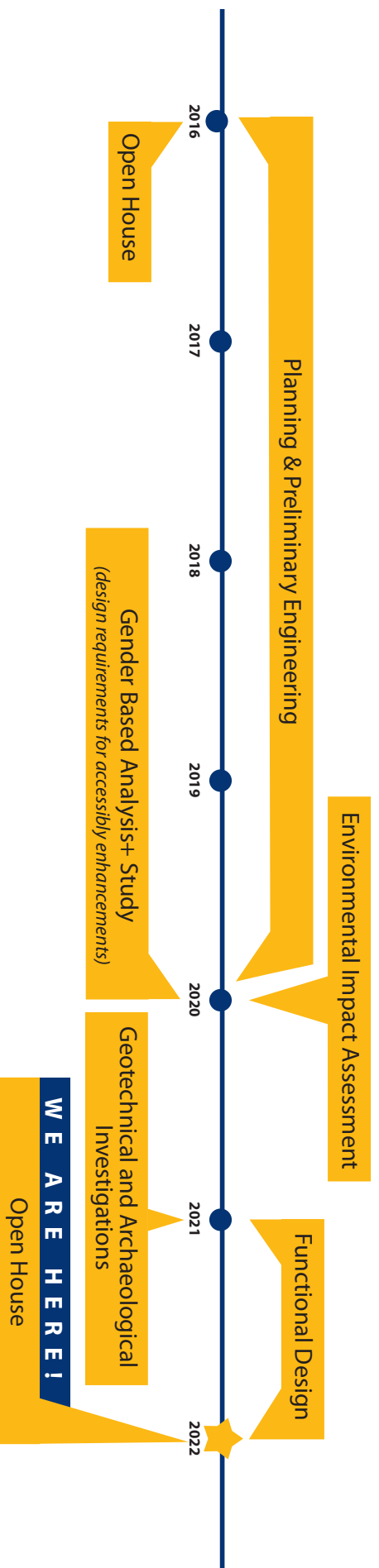


Existing Kicking Horse River Bridge 1 Ice Jam (January 2022)

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

The ministry has been working on the Kicking Horse River Bridges Project for many years. Since our Open House in 2016, we have revised the design to minimize road and property impacts. **Here's some of the work that we've completed since 2016:**



The ministry is consulting with the Shuswap Indian Band and the Town of Golden. Your input, today, will help refine the final design and overall cost of the project.

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following figure illustrates the existing conditions of the study area:



Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

PROPOSED DESIGN

The following figure illustrates the proposed design of the study area:



Key features of the proposed design can be found on the following panels.

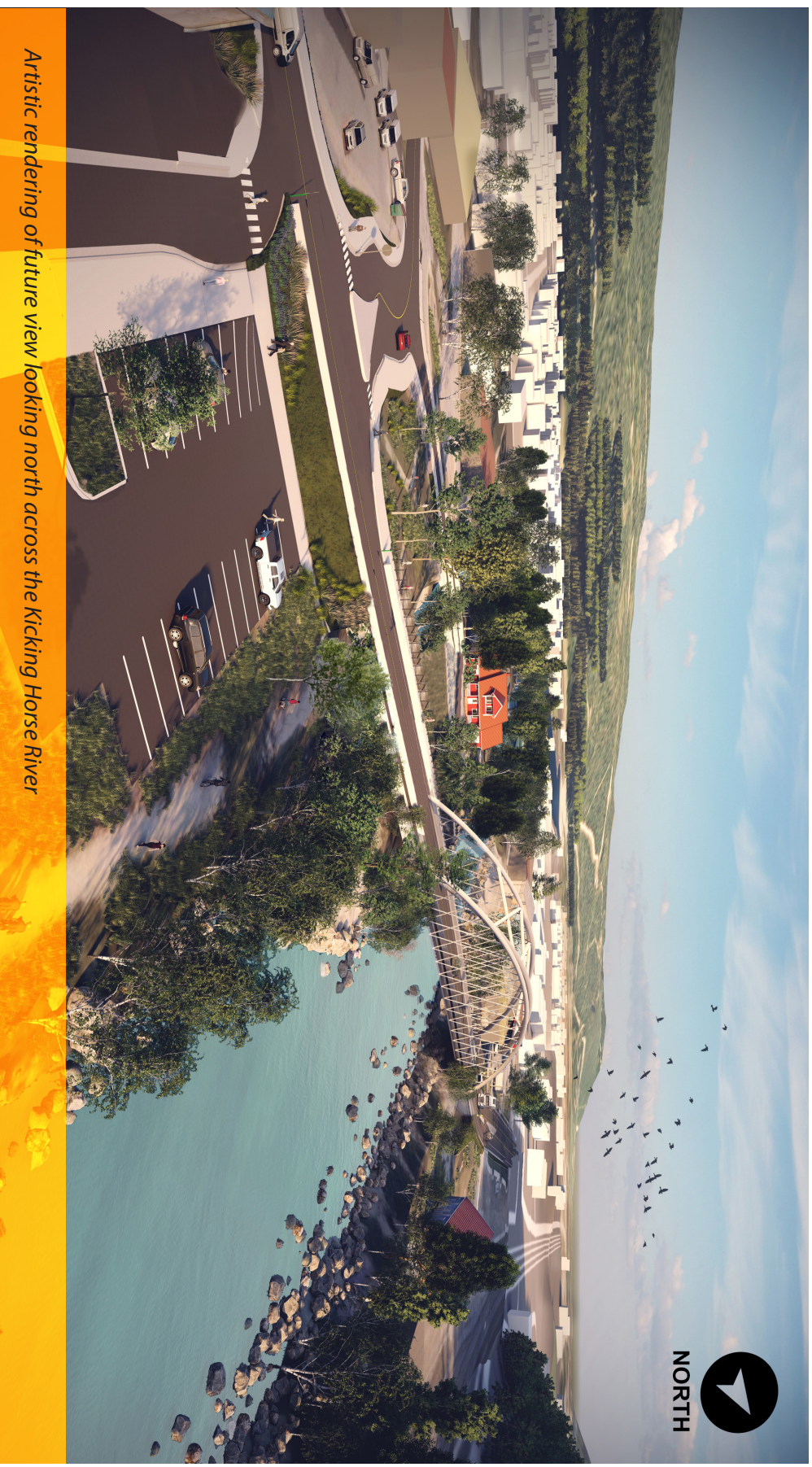
Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

FEATURES OF PROPOSED DESIGN



Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

PROPOSED DESIGN: ARTISTIC RENDERING LOOKING NORTH



Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

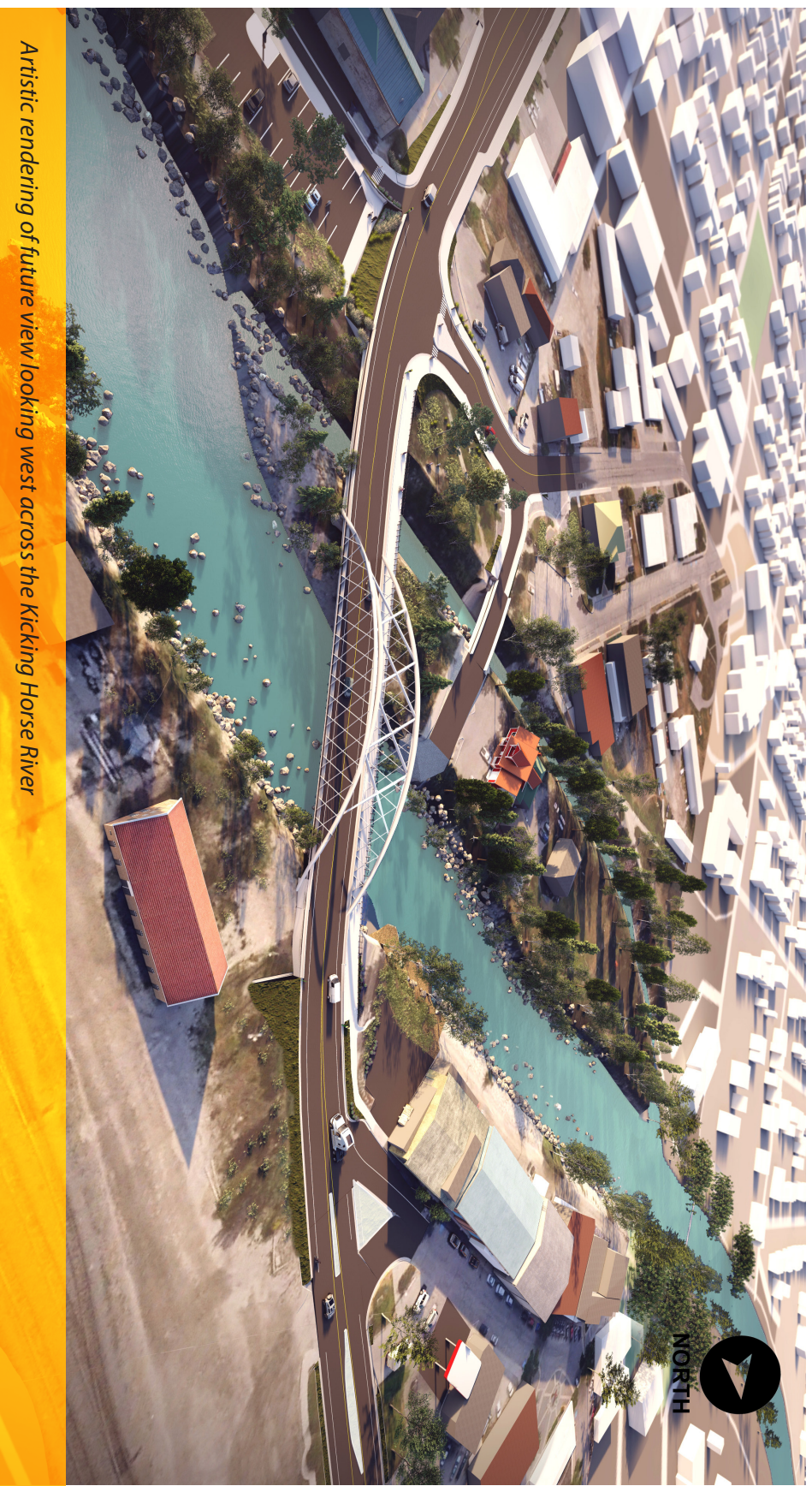
PROPOSED DESIGN: ARTISTIC RENDERING LOOKING SOUTH



Artistic rendering of future view looking south across the Kicking Horse River

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

PROPOSED DESIGN: ARTISTIC RENDERING LOOKING WEST



Artistic rendering of future view looking west across the Kicking Horse River

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

MOVING UPSTREAM & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Moving the New Bridge Crossing Upstream:

The new Kicking Horse River Bridge 1 will be constructed to replace the existing bridge. This new bridge will be located slightly upstream and will connect with the realigned Highway 95.

The upstream location of the Kicking Horse River Bridge 1 will minimize property and local business impacts. It also results in a more linear highway alignment, which improves safety and visibility.

By building the new bridge offline, there are less overall traffic and community disruptions at the time of construction.

Kicking Horse River Bridge 2 is undergoing an analysis to determine whether to rehabilitate or replace the bridge.

Climate Change Resiliency:

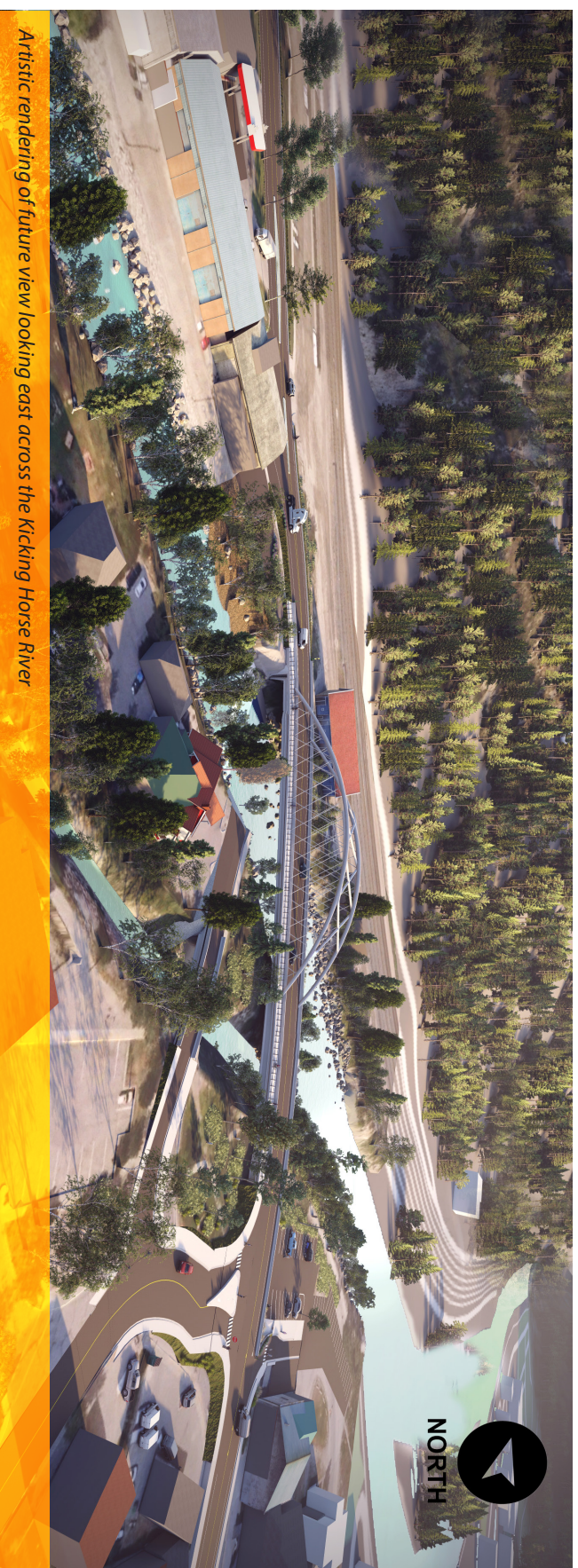
- Increased bridge height over the Kicking Horse River accommodates future extreme high water and ice events
- Additional river bank protection (rip rap) to mitigate erosion
- New storm drainage system to handle runoff from variable weather events



Artistic Rendering of Kicking Horse River Bridge 1 (Proposed Design)

Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project

NEXT STEPS



Artistic rendering of future view looking east across the Kicking Horse River

What's Next?

The project team will conduct the following next steps between 2022 and 2023:

- Review feedback as part of this open house process
- Complete engineering and pursue funding for construction

THANK YOU!



Your feedback is appreciated and important.

We invite you to submit your feedback:

- In-person, at today's open house
- Online survey at: Gov.bc.ca/highway95goldenbridges
- Mail your feedback form to:

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Attn: Tim Dyer, Project Manager
310 Ward Street
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Ministry of
Transportation
and Infrastructure

Appendix B:

Feedback Form

FEEDBACK FORM

HIGHWAY 95 KICKING HORSE RIVER BRIDGES 1 & 2 PROJECT

Collection Notice: Your personal information will be collected for the purposes of informing the Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project. If you have any questions about the collection of this personal information, please contact: Director, Citizen Engagement, citizenengagement@gov.bc.ca. This information is being collected by the Ministry of Citizens' Services on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure under the authority of section 26(c) and 26(e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("FOIPPA").

Thank-you for attending our open house. Your feedback will help to finalize the design and seek funding for construction for this important project. **Submission deadline: July 15, 2022**

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the **overall design**.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the new **highway alignment**.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please indicate your level of agreement with the design of the new **multi-use pathway**.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Is there anything we've missed in this new design that you would like the ministry to be aware of?

5. Please provide additional comments regarding the Highway 95 Kicking Horse River Bridges 1 & 2 Project:

Thank you for your feedback! If you have any additional comments or questions, please email:
GoldenBridges@gov.bc.ca