

# Engagement Summary

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## The Ward to Downtown Pedestrian Bridge

### Summary

The Ward to Downtown Bridge open house presented three bridge concepts. Following the meeting, 37 people responded online, through email, and in writing by voting for their favourite design concept.

### Which concept was the most popular?

Option number one was the most popular.

- Option one had four online votes, 16 written votes, and three emailed votes. In total, 23 people preferred this option.
- Option two had one emailed vote total.
- Option three had four written votes total.

Based on public input and evaluation by staff, the City will be proceeding with the detailed design of option one.

### What features did the community like about option one?

- Having a bench on the bridge
- The wider deck in middle of bridge
- Lookout area
- Open mesh railing on the south side
- Solid railing on the railway side
- Shape of the structure

### Features we cannot include

The City received several comments requesting that the pedestrian bridge be extended to include a pedestrian and cyclist underpass trail. There are a few reasons why this option is not being explored by staff:

1. Environmental studies would be required to determine if this idea is feasible
2. The budget that Council allocated for this project is not enough to cover the cost of a bridge extension and underpass
3. Additions to the plan at this point in the planning process would delay construction of the bridge

At this time, City staff have not received direction or funding from Council to pursue an extended pedestrian bridge.

### Next steps

The first public open house focused on the design of the bridge only. Over the next few months, the City will be working with the consultant to further develop the design of the bridge and the trails.

A second public open house will be scheduled in summer 2018 to obtain feedback from the community on the design of the entire site, including the trails. The City

will also consult with the Heritage Guelph Committee and the River Systems Advisory Committee to receive feedback on the impact that the proposed design may have on nearby heritage features and the Speed River.