

Lake Trail Pedestrian Pathway July 2025 Update



Today's Presentation

- Project History
- Project Design
- Environmental Requirements and Permitting Process
- Project Phasing
- Next Steps

A background image of a topographic map with contour lines and some shaded areas, suggesting a natural or outdoor setting.

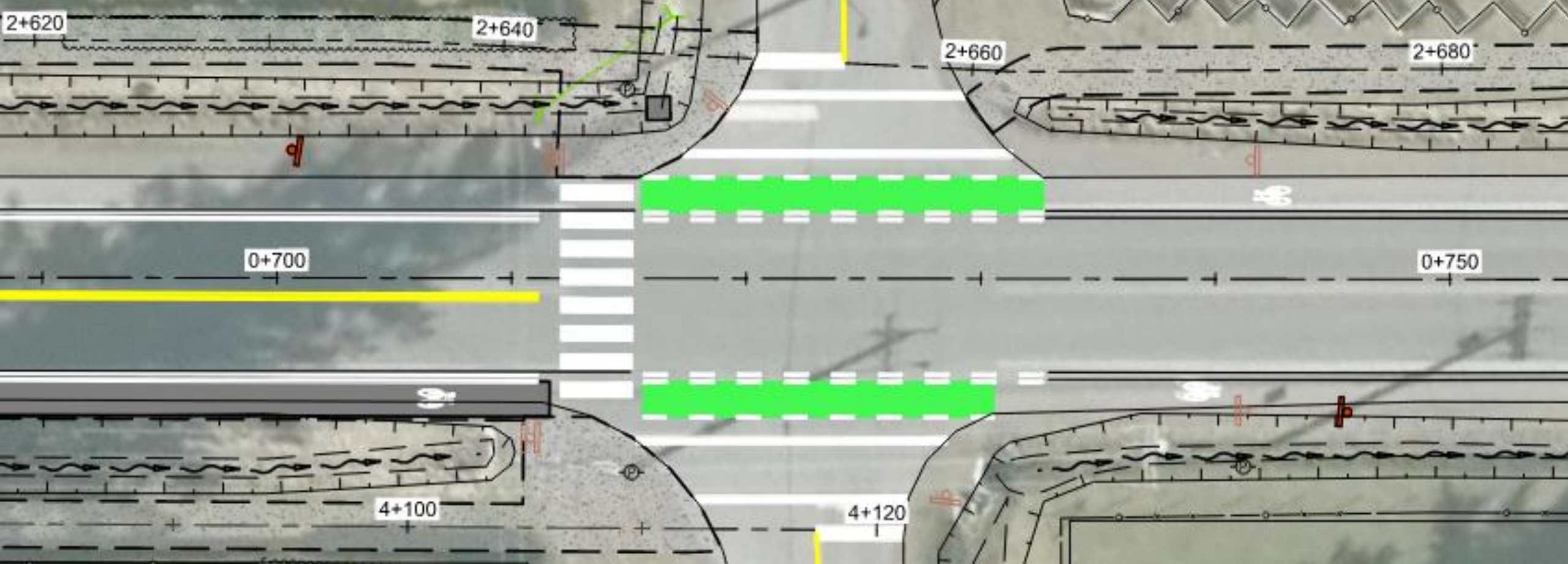
Lake Trail Pedestrian Pathway: Project History

- Project Goal

- Develop a multi-use pathway and improved bike facilities between Lake Trail Community School and Arden Elementary School along Lake Trail Road to improve connectivity and safety for children, pedestrians, and cyclists.

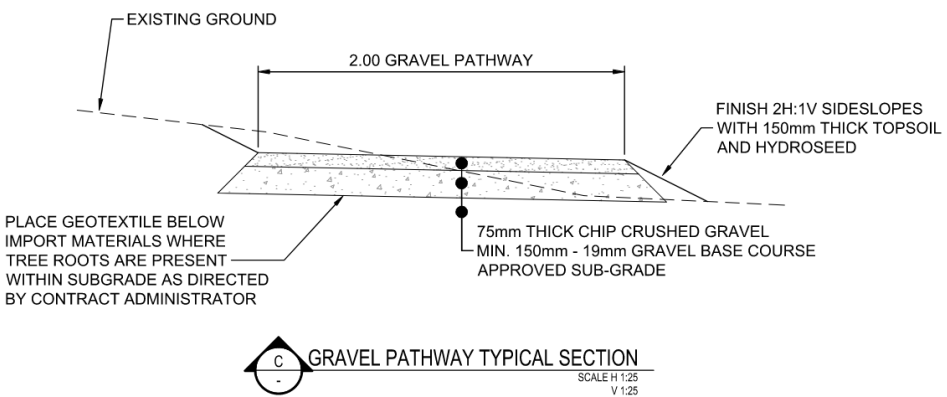
- Project History

- In 2018, Arden Ambassadors requested that the City review in Lake Trail Road between Arden Elementary and Lake Trail Middle Schools for opportunities for pedestrian improvements.
- The City began the design process 2021, with the goal of attaining a BC Active Transportation Grant to supplement funding. McElhanney assisted with application for an Active Transportation Grant in 2022. CVRD electoral areas services committee supported the project in October 2023.
- With the grant awarded in March 2024, McElhanney began environmental review in April 2024 and continued with the pathway design in July 2024.



Lake Trail Pedestrian Path Design

City of Courtenay



A faint, stylized topographic map of a region with various contour lines and shaded areas, serving as a background for the title.

Lake Trail Pedestrian Pathway: Project Design

- 2.0m gravel pathway along the north side of Lake Trail Road, new concrete bus pad at Lake Trail School, bike lane improvements
- Signage and painting improvement
- Culvert installation at Webb Road and drainage improvements
- Habitat restoration and improvements along Arden Creek



Lake Trail Pedestrian Path Environmental Considerations

City of Courtenay



Environment and Climate Change Canada Species at Risk Act: Morrison Creek Lamprey

The Morrison Creek Lamprey is only located in the Morrison Creek watershed (including Arden Creek) and is protected by the federal Species At Risk Act (SARA), which places additional scrutiny over works in and around Arden Creek.



Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship (MWLRS)

Water Sustainability Act

- Change Approval – up to a year
 - Significantly altering a watercourse
 - E.g. infilling a ditch to become a storm system
- Notification – 60 day review
- Anything that isn't a Notification is likely a Change Approval



Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Fisheries Act

- Based on not causing a HADD – harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat
- Request for Review (RfR)
 - Explains the project scope and how the project will not cause a HADD
- Fisheries Act Authorization (FAA)
 - Has additional considerations – First Nations consultation, mitigation and offsetting of impacts, bonding/maintenance for the offsets

Environmental Overview Assessment
April 2024 to City of Courtenay

Overall review of potential environmental impact, identifies mitigation and which permits are likely to be triggered by scope of work

Environmental Impact Assessment
August 2024 to DFO
RfR Submission August 2024
(Response December 2024)

Report detailing the specific impact the project will have to habitat. RfR submission to DFO to ask what permits will be required. Requires Detailed Design Drawings.

FAA / SARA Permit
First Submission March 2025 to DFO
(Response May 2025)
Second Submission June 2025 to DFO

Reporting and Permitting with regulator (DFO) to show how works will be mitigated and offset with habitat improvements

Environmental Management Plan
To be finalized once permits secured

Informs contractor (and regulators) what will be done during the project need to do to meet permitting requirements



Lake Trail Pedestrian Path Project

Phasing

City of Courtenay



Phase 1: Works not requiring environmental permits – FALL 2025

- Pedestrian pathway works up to Arden Road
- Bus stop improvements at Lake Trail Community School
- Drainage improvements up to Arden Road
- All north side bike lane improvements up to Webb Road



Phase 2: Works requiring environmental permits – SUMMER 2026

- Pedestrian Pathway works from Arden Road to Webb Road
- All south side bike lane improvements up to Webb Road
- Instream works within Arden Creek
- Habitat compensation and restoration within Arden Creek

Thank You



McElhanney



Platinum member