

# What We Heard Report: Starkey Road Pedestrian Bridge

Community Conversation and Survey, January 2025

## Project

The purpose of the public engagement plan was to consult with the community to find out their preferences for the style of a new pedestrian bridge in the Sturgeon Valley.

The Starkey Road shared-use pathway and active transportation bridge project is one of the High Priority active transportation network routes proposed in the Sturgeon Valley Trails System: The Path Forward study, completed in December 2021. This engagement focused specifically on bridge design since other related considerations, such as bridge alignment, were addressed through the Path Forward study. Ensuring the bridge design reflects resident preferences also aligns directly with the Sturgeon County strategic priority to "cultivate safe, beautiful and complete communities."

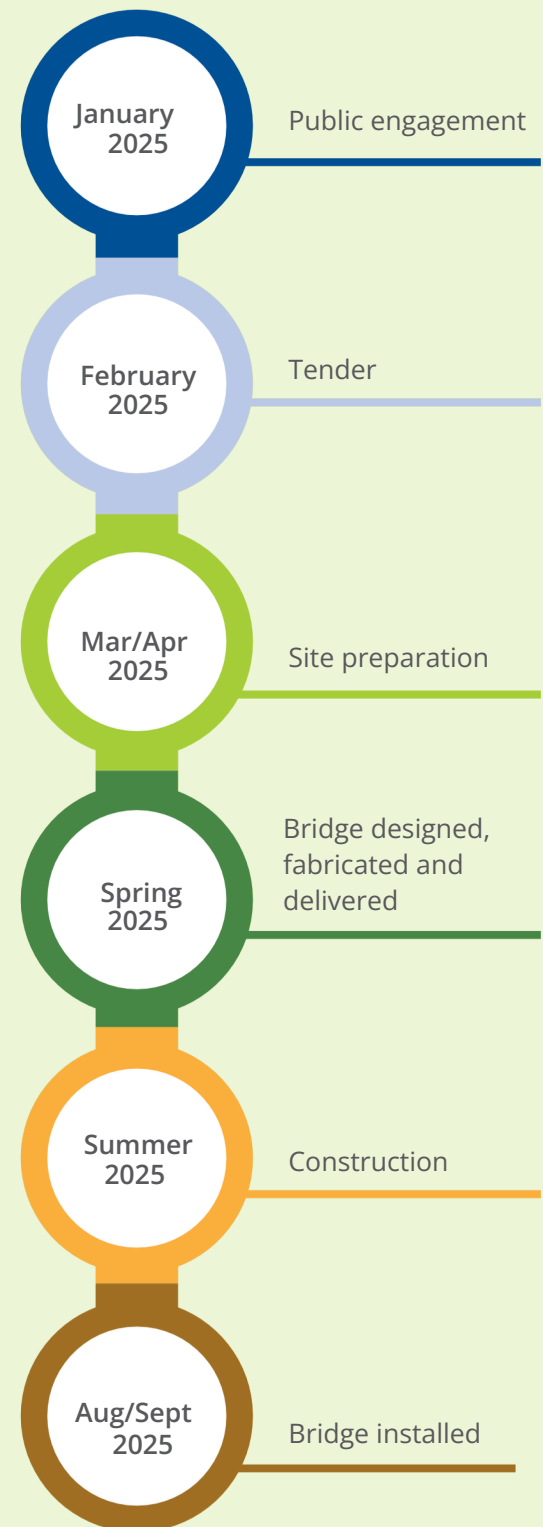
The new Starkey Road pedestrian bridge will benefit nearby residents and attract visitors to the area, as well as become a key connection in the expanding Sturgeon Valley Active Transportation network.

## Decisions

Sturgeon County consulted with residents to find out their preferences for materials that will be used in the bridge and its overall look and design. The bridge will mainly serve area residents, so it is hoped the feedback will reflect a design the community can take pride in and be eager to use. Sturgeon County's Transportation and Engineering department will consider feedback from residents when they select the final bridge type and aesthetic features.

Before the team can tender the bridge project, the County is seeking information about:

- which style of bridge residents prefer (out of 3 options);
- other considerations about the look and design; and,
- comments or other ideas for the bridge.





## Public engagement – What we did

Details about the project were posted online on the Starkey Road Pedestrian Bridge and Pathway Project (Starkey Project) webpage, where visitors could also access and complete an online survey to share their input.

An in-person open house was held at the Sturgeon Valley Golf and Country Club (25114 Sturgeon Rd, Sturgeon County) from 6 to 8 p.m. on January 29, 2025. The event was promoted through various channels, including the Starkey Project webpage, signs on roads trails in the area, social media and the County's weekly e-newsletter.

### In-person open house

- 40 people attended the open house.
- The event kicked off with a short presentation that covered key details about the project and the methods used to inform key decisions on the project.
- Participants were able to ask questions at the end of the presentation.
- One-on-one conversations took place throughout the evening to share further information, answer additional questions and receive feedback.
- Participants were invited to provide their answers to the survey questions by placing dots on a paperboard displaying each question from the survey (this method is referred to as a 'dotmocracy').

- 27 dotmocracy surveys were completed at the open house and one written response was also submitted (NOTE: some participants did not answer all the survey questions).
- Several comment cards were also received with additional feedback.

### Online survey posted to the Starkey Project webpage

- 48 online surveys were completed between January 10 and February 5, 2025.

### Input in numbers

- 76 people completed the survey
- 48 online surveys
- 28 dotmocracy surveys

## What we asked



The survey included 9 prompts:

1. Are you a resident of the Sturgeon Valley?
2. Which of the following bridge designs do you prefer?
3. Which type of material do you prefer for the bridge structure?
4. Would you prefer the bridge to be equipped with a lighting system?
5. How important is the aesthetic appearance of the bridge to you?
6. How important is it for the bridge to be made of materials that match the surrounding environment (e.g., in natural colour)?
7. How important is the durability of the materials used in the bridge construction, particularly considering local weather conditions?
8. How important are sustainability principles in the selection of materials?
9. Do you think the proposed bridge should have any additional features? (open comment question)

Full survey results are provided in the Appendix.

## What we heard

The scope of the engagement was to assess design preferences specifically, but survey respondents and open house participants were also encouraged to provide additional feedback, if desired. All survey responses and feedback were recorded and will be considered in the context of this project.

## Results

The following is a summary of the survey results:

- o 92% of respondents were residents of Sturgeon Valley;
- o Option A was selected as the preferred design style by more than 69% of respondents (**simple bridge style**);
- o 77% of respondents preferred a **combination of material**;
- o 48% of respondents indicated the bridge should be equipped **with lighting** (11% were unsure);
- o 48% of respondents said the aesthetic appearance of the bridge is somewhat important;
- o 48% of respondents said it is somewhat important for the bridge to be made of materials that match the surrounding environment;
- o The majority of respondents (nearly 82%) indicated that durability of materials is very important to them;
- o Half of survey respondents felt that sustainability is important.
- o Additional comments received included suggestions such as incorporating seating and viewing platforms on the bridge, expanding nearby parking to accommodate for increased use of the trail, making the trail wider or narrower and ensuring safety considerations around the nearby Surgeon Road roundabout.

## Next steps

Sturgeon County will use the information collected through the survey and open house to determine the best design for the project, identify any issues, and assess any other considerations before proceeding. Based on the community engagement, the majority of residents have expressed support for a simple bridge design that uses a combination of steel or aluminum with wood.

The next steps in the project include site preparation (March and April), bridge design, fabrication and delivery (April to June) and construction (Summer 2025). Information about the project will continue to be communicated to residents through the County's website, [sturgeoncounty.ca](http://sturgeoncounty.ca).

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us:

Karolina Drabik

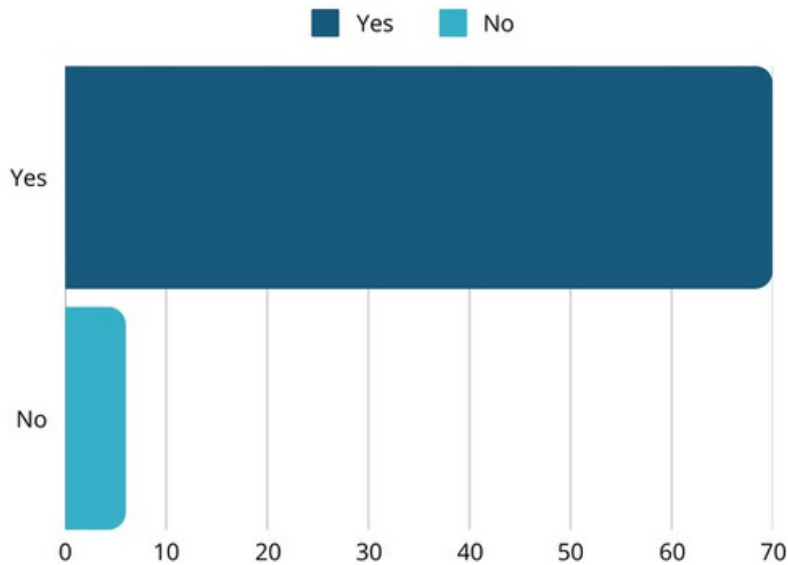
Open Space Lead, Community Services

Phone: 7 80-939-8340

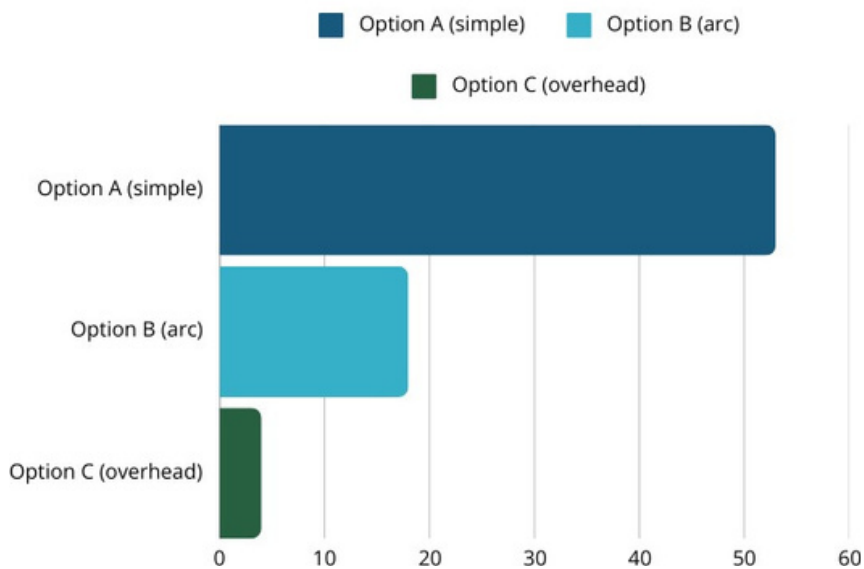
Email: [kd\\_rabik@sturgeoncounty.ca](mailto:kd_rabik@sturgeoncounty.ca)

## Appendix - Survey results

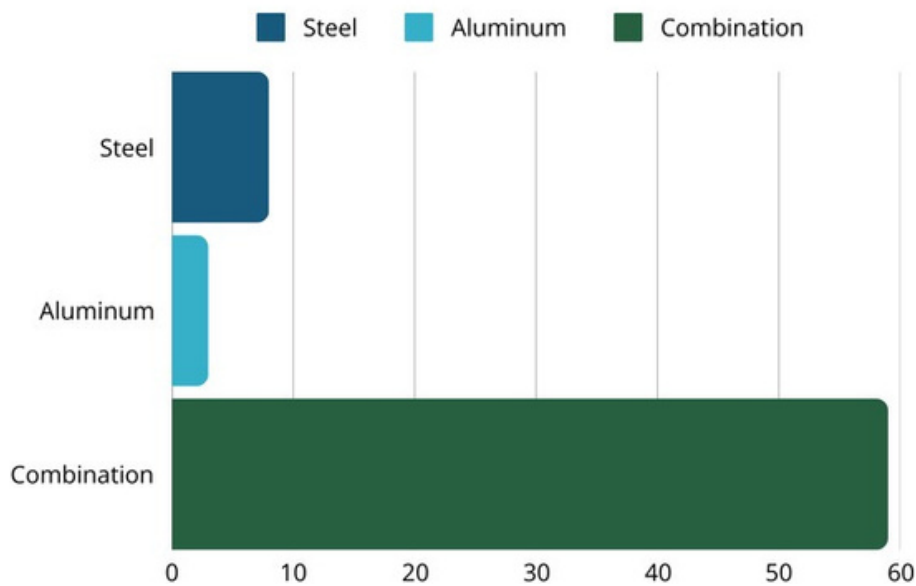
Q1. Are you a resident of the Sturgeon Valley?



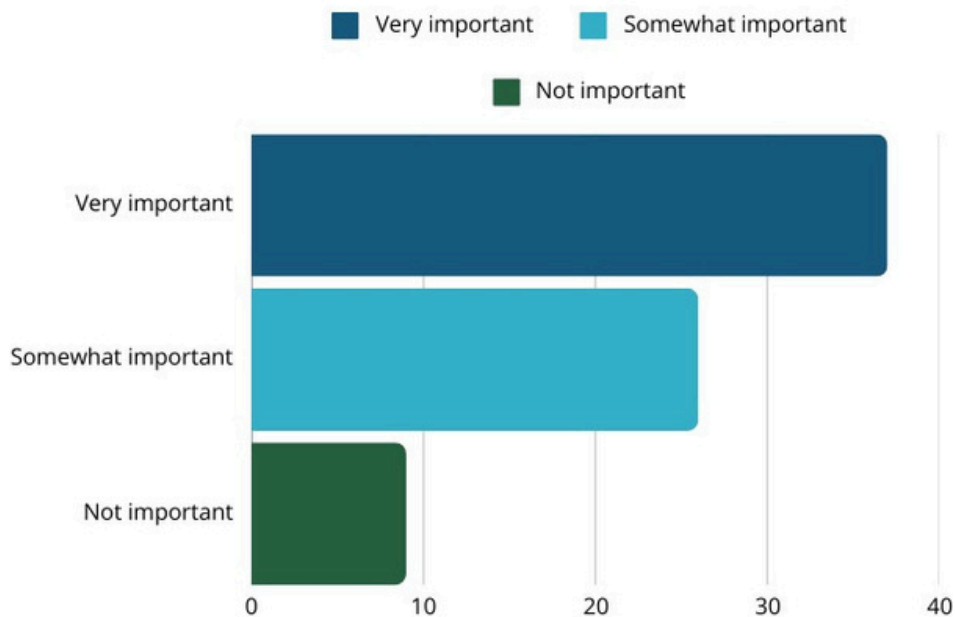
Q2. Which of the following bridge designs do you prefer?



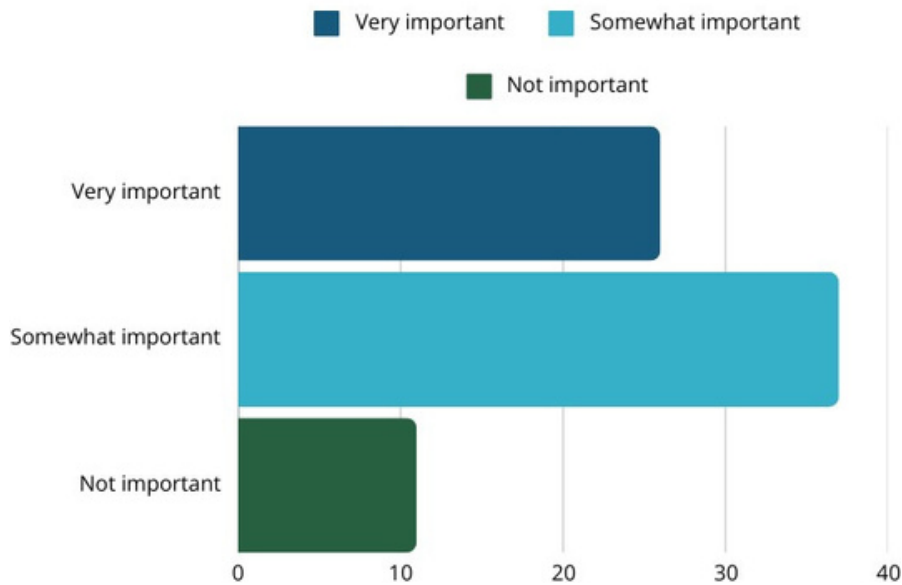
Q3. Which type of material do you prefer for the bridge structure?



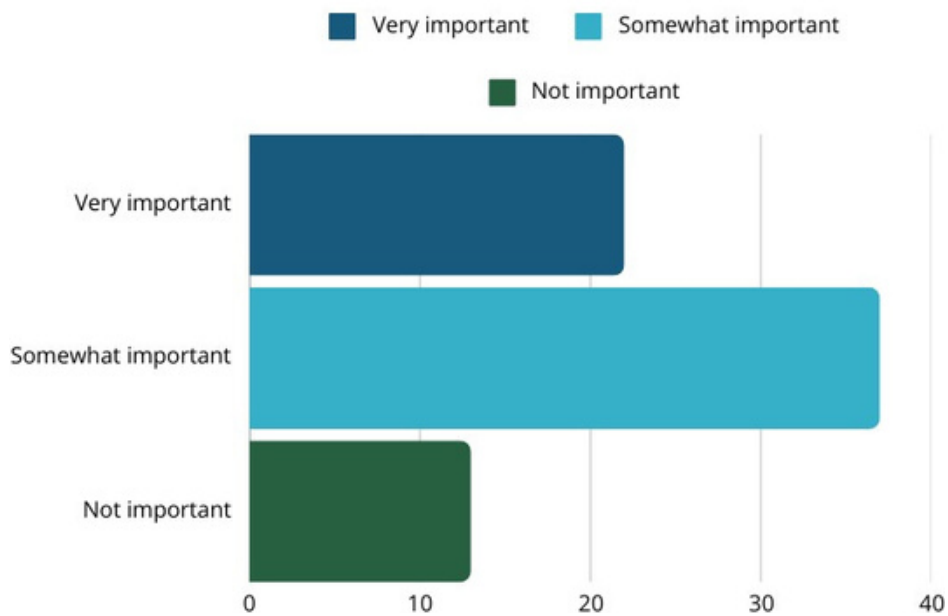
Q4. Would you prefer the bridge to be equipped with a lighting system?



Q5. How important is the aesthetic appearance of the bridge to you?

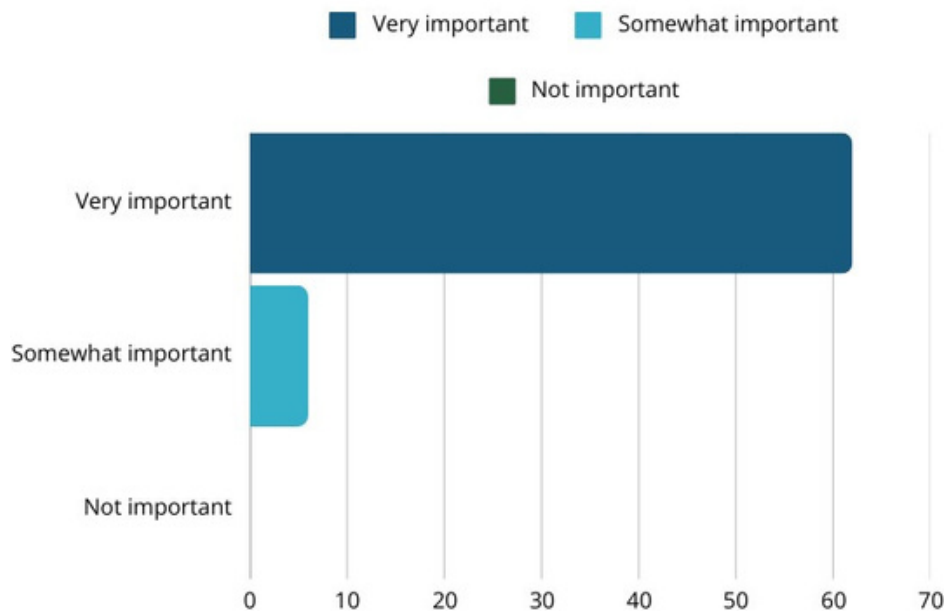


Q6. How important is it for the bridge to be made of materials that match the surrounding environment (e.g., in natural colour)?





Q7. How important is the durability of the materials used in the bridge construction, particularly considering local weather conditions?



Q8. How important are sustainability principles in the selection of materials?

