

Plans for Fort York bridge project hitting home stretch

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COURTESY DUFFERIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Dufferin Construction Company

What's hot

The community praised the simple and elegant design and liked the idea of lookout points.

What's not

"Awkward" flow of traffic on paths. A mesh screen over the rail tracks could attract love locks, they said.



COURTESY ELLISDON

EllisDon

What's hot

The weathered design reflects the area's history and provides a community space between the two spans.

What's not

The structure looks "heavy" and offers an "intrusive" touchdown at Fort York.



COURTESY LANDMARK BRIDGE BUILDERS

Landmark Bridge Builders

What's hot

The simple curves of the bridge mirror the flow of Garrison Creek, a buried river that used to flow nearby.

What's not

The community disliked the use of glass and worried the design was too ordinary.

*All feedback came from a community consultation meeting this month.

3 contenders vie for contract to build cyclist, pedestrian span

Chris Bateman
For Metro | Toronto

Pedestrians and cyclists will soon be able to zip over the west-end rail corridor between Stanley Park and Garrison Common that closes a missing link in the city's trail network.

A highly anticipated plan to build a grand, sweeping bridge between the two green spaces is entering its final stages, and the public is providing feedback on three possible designs.

Each would remove a critical gap between the waterfront and the walking and cycling paths in the Trinity-Bellwoods area.

The Fort York Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge project was supposed to have been completed by July 2012, but the idea was shelved in 2011 after councillors under then Mayor Rob Ford balked at the cost.

The idea was revived a few

months later when the cost was reduced from \$26 million and capped at \$19.7 million.

The S-shaped bridge will link a southern extension of Stanley Park to a new green space tucked between the two branches of the rail corridor, in an area known as the Ordnance Triangle. A second span will allow pedestrians and cyclists to hop over the tracks into Garrison Common

at Fort York.

From there, users will be able to connect with the waterfront Martin Goodman Trail and routes that head downtown.

"It's going to create a connection to a lot of links that will really and dramatically improve cycling access," says Don Logie, senior vice-president of development with Build Toronto, the city-

owned development corporation tasked with delivering the project.

A contract will be awarded to the winning entry later this year, with construction slated to start in the fall or next spring.

The bridge is expected to be open by spring 2017.

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