



Office of the Mayor | Bureau du maire

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Rehabilitating the College Street Underpass without impacting Municipal Taxpayers

The City of Greater Sudbury will move forward with the rehabilitation of the College Street Underpass, the oldest bridge in our city, and a critical infrastructure link supporting both rail operations and the local transportation network.

The \$8.7 million project will be funded entirely through the Federal Government's Community Building Fund. Council's decision to take this new approach will allow the City to address the structural and safety needs of the bridge without incurring any debt and putting additional financial pressure on municipal taxpayers.

While the original price tag for this project was approximately \$25M, Mayor Paul Lefebvre emphasized that while the City is taking responsible action to maintain the underpass, municipalities should not be expected to bear the full financial responsibility for infrastructure that primarily supports national rail operations.

"This underpass is essential infrastructure, and we are taking responsible action to ensure it remains safe and reliable for residents, businesses, and industry. However, municipal taxpayers should not be solely responsible for funding infrastructure that is required for national rail service, said Mayor Lefebvre. "By using federal funds already in our account, we're able to complete this necessary rehabilitation without additional local cost, while continuing to advocate for fair participation from partners, including CPKC and other levels of government."

Detailed structural reviews indicate that undertaking rehabilitation now will reduce long-term risks, improve public safety, and extend the service life of the structure by an estimated 25 to 30 years.

“The approved project will focus on targeted structural rehabilitation of the bridge while maintaining its current roadway configuration and clearance,” said General Manager of Community Infrastructure, Antti Vilkkö. “This approach ensures the City is addressing immediate safety priorities and can preserve the asset responsibly today while maintaining flexibility for the future.”

The City will continue working collaboratively with rail and government partners to explore opportunities for shared investment in any future expansion or long-term reconstruction of the underpass. While those discussions continue, moving ahead with structural rehabilitation now allows the City to address immediate safety needs in a fiscally responsible manner.

- 30 -

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