

STAFF REPORT



To: Council
From: Adam Dedrick, Director of Recreation & Parks
Approved by: Trudy Payne, Chief Administrative Officer
Date: July 28, 2021
Subject: Jordan River Trail Public Meeting

ORIGIN

It was approved in the 2021-2022 capital budget for the conversion of the Jordan River Trail from a multi-use trail (walking, cycling) to a shared multi-use trail (walking, cycling and off highway vehicles).

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information purposes only.

BACKGROUND

The Jordan River Trail is a multi-use trail, 2.6 km long, mainly used for walking and cycling. It expands from lower Jordan Road to the Camp Jordan entrance in Jordan Falls. It has a trail head located on Hayden’s Road and there is a trestle bridge located midway on the trail.

The Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association has developed a shared multi-use trail (walking, off highway vehicles) on the eastern side of the trail where it connects at Camp Jordan and is currently developing the trail on the western side. Once this is complete, there will be shared multi-use trail on both sides of the Jordan River Trail, making it a gap in the trail system as it is currently not open to OHVs.

In 2020, the Recreation & Parks Department conducted a survey to gather data on the use of local trails located in the Municipality that are regularly maintained by a trail group or organization. The results of the trail survey, which had 298 respondents, showed an overwhelming support of a connected trail system, one that allows motorized use. In addition, trail counts were done for the Municipal trails only, to get a better idea of the frequency of activities taking place on the trails. This showed that there is already motorized use on the Jordan River Trail.

The conversion of the Jordan River Trail to shared multi-use would close the gap and would contribute to creating a connected trail system.

DISCUSSION

There is currently a Letter of Authority from the NS Department of Lands and Forestry for all of the municipal trails and the Jordan River Trail is included as a multi-use trail. One of the early steps of the process to change the LOA is to hold a public meeting with adjacent landowners and users of the trail to identify their interests, desires and issues that may need to be considered. Those considerations can then be included in the request to change the LOA.

The public meeting would include representatives from NS Department of Lands and Forestry and the NS Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage. Letters would be sent to all adjacent landowners and the meeting would be advertised.

The timeline for the public meeting would be to advertise in August and hold the meeting in September of this year. If the meeting shows enough public support, an application would be made following the meeting to request the change to the LOA. Once approved, the work to convert the trail would begin as soon as the LOA is changed. Ideally, that would be no later than November. However, the time for approval of the LOA change is not known at this time but it should be quicker being that there is an existing LOA in place, rather than a new one having to be produced and approved.

The actual conversion of the trail involves trail bed upgrades (i.e. grading) any needed vegetation clearing, removal of barriers at bridge entry points and installation of barriers and signs at road openings. This does not include any upgrades to the trestle bridge located on the trail.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The costs to host a public meeting would include advertising and any venue rental fees, which would be taken from the general advertising budget and the Recreation facilities maintenance budget.

ALTERNATIVES

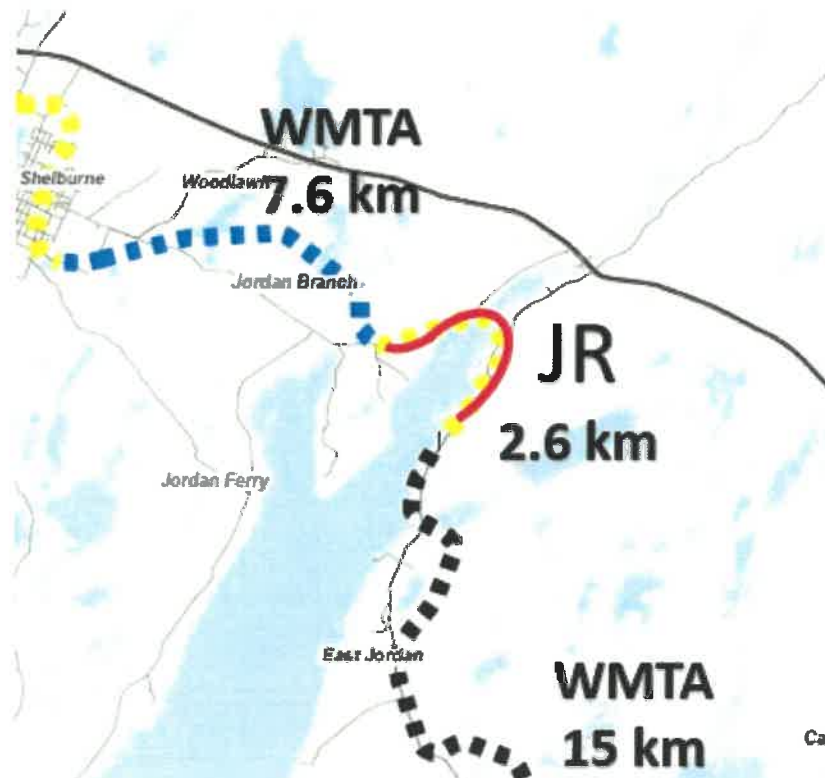
- a) Hold the public meeting at a later date, however, it would delay the LOA change and the conversion of the trail, if the meeting shows enough public support.
- b) Not hold a public meeting, but public consultation is required if the Municipality wants to pursue converting the trail.

ATTACHMENTS

-Maps of Jordan River Trail



Map of Jordan River Trail



Map showing Woodland Multi-Use Trail on both sides of Jordan River Trail