Draper Trail Feasibility Study Public & Stakeholder Workshop

Presenter: John Buchko & Cassandra Dell'Aquila, EDS Group Inc.

Department: Parks – Represented by Autumn Powell

Meeting Date: December 5, 2022

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

Please note, this session is being recorded so that it can be shared on the *Participate Wood Buffalo* project page.

Session Summary

- Introductions & methods to ease participation
- Why a feasibility study?
- Study process
- Findings to-date
- Regulatory considerations
- Next steps
- Open discussion



Introductions

- Are you here representing a user group?
- What would make it easier for you to participate today? (i.e., everyone speaking loudly and clearly, having the facilitator stop and ask if there are questions instead of using the raise hand button, etc.)
- Are there any topics not listed in the agenda you want to make sure we discuss today?



Introductions: About the Project

(continued)



- Much of the Draper Trail was formerly a CN rail line that connects the rural RMWB communities of Draper and Saprae Creek
- The 2019 RMWB Parks Master Plan identified improvements to this trail as a priority for the Draper area
- **Goals:**
  - to determine the vision for its future use through engagement
  - to conduct a thorough review of the existing trail to determine determine the feasibility of enhancements

Why a Feasibility Study?

- “A feasibility study is a detailed analysis that considers all of the critical aspects of a proposed project in order to determine the likelihood of it succeeding.” (Investopedia, 2022)

- What is it that the RMWB and residents want the trail to be?

- What are the costs and benefits of these improvements?

- What is practical to undertake?



Project Principles

Trail Development:

- Meet the needs of the RMWB and residents
- Increasing public safety
- Promoting the trail as a multi-use recreation corridor
- Modernized system: signage, improving trails and designated areas, amenities
- Align types of users against environmental values and cost implications

Study Process

- Assessment of existing conditions for the Draper trail
- Discussions with internal RMWB staff, initial stakeholder & public workshop
- Online public engagement using *Participate Wood Buffalo*
- Creation of draft report
- Follow-up workshop with residents and stakeholders to review draft
- Developing a "What We Heard Report"
- Finalization of a report that outlines the feasibility of various improvements along this stretch of trail

Findings to-Date: Site Investigation



- Several site assessments and surveys were conducted
  - recreation
  - geotechnical
  - civil engineering
- We investigated trail alignments, erosion and drainage concerns, creek crossing locations and logistics, sensitive species, potential conflicts

















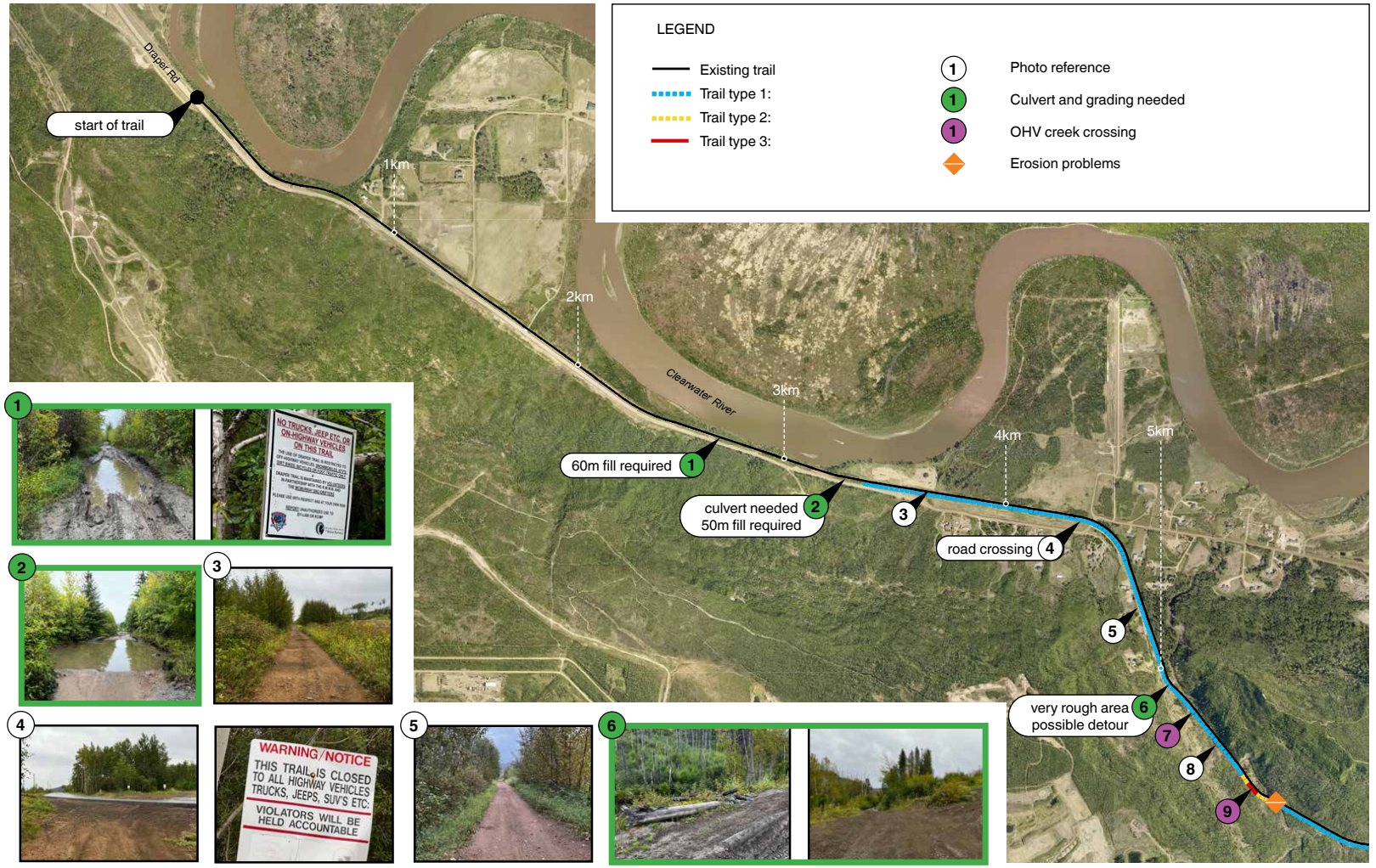



30



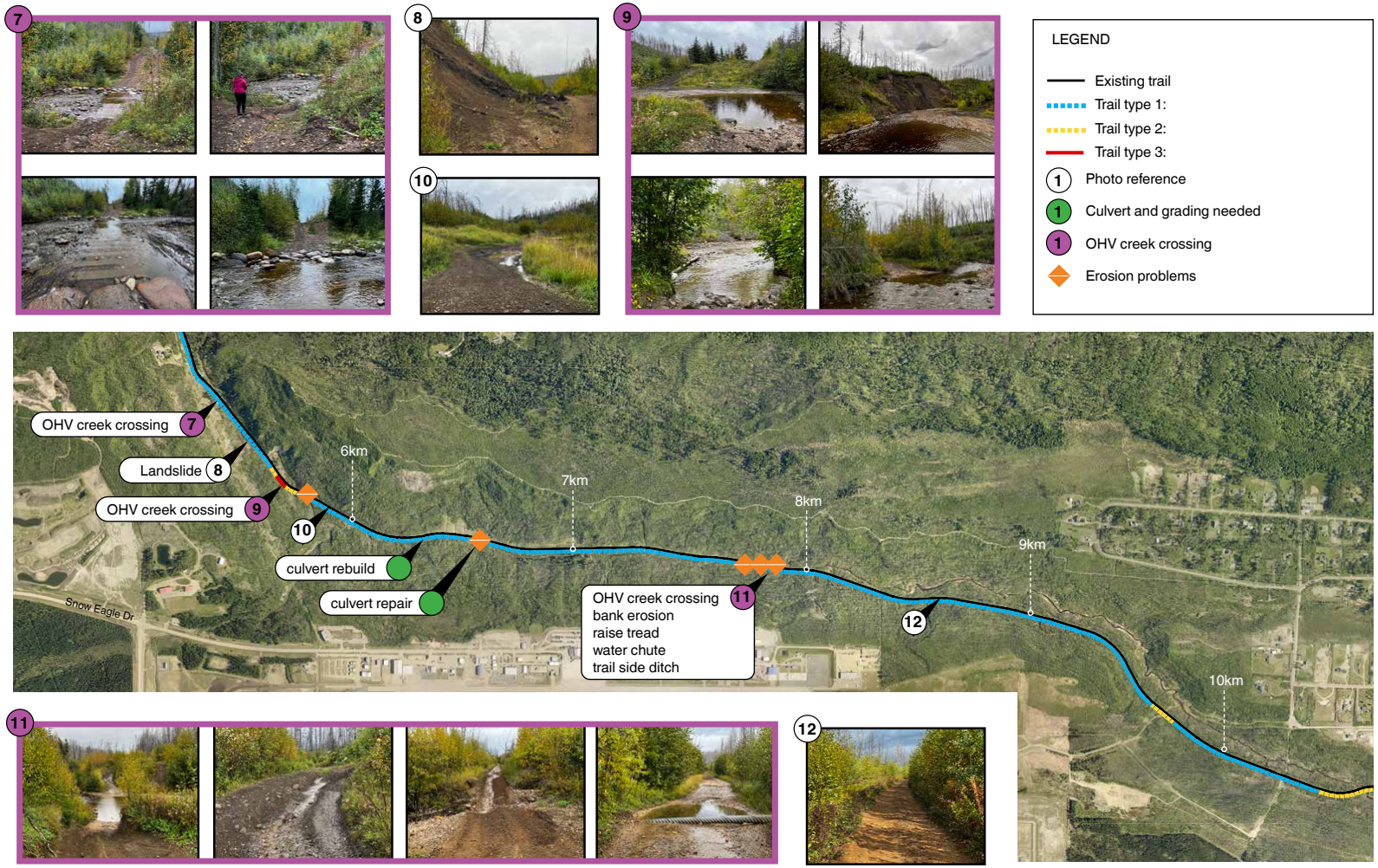

WARNING/NOTICE
THIS TRAIL IS CLOSED
TO ALL HIGHWAY VEHICLES
TRUCKS, JEEPS, SUV'S ETC:
VIOLATORS WILL BE
HELD ACCOUNTABLE
MACMURRAY
Sno-Drifters
CLUB
NO TRUCKS

Findings to-Date: Site Investigation



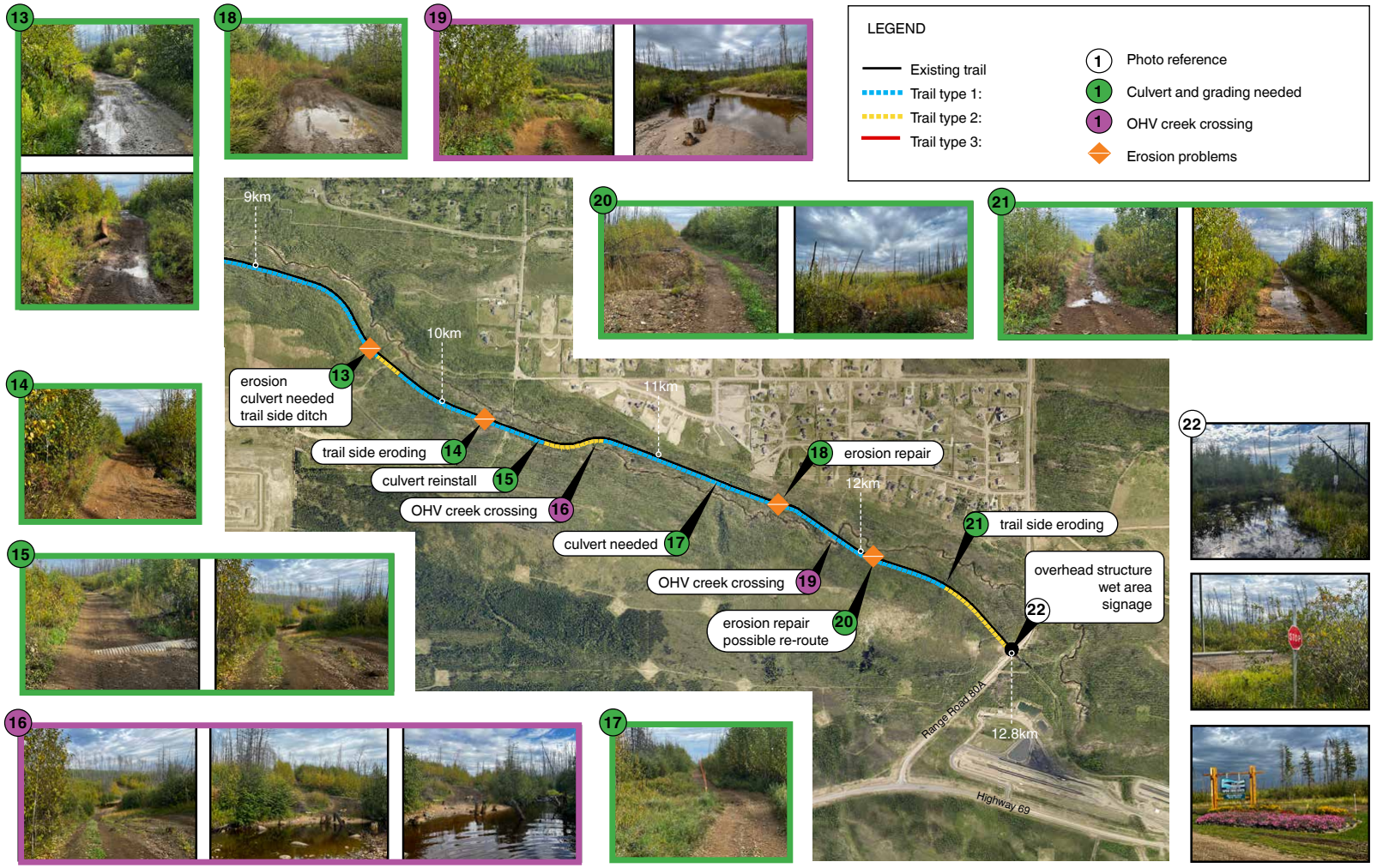
1. Drainage concerns
2. Drainage concerns
3. Trail in great condition
4. Road crossing
5. Trail in great condition
6. Very rough area, possible detour needed

Findings to-Date: Site Investigation



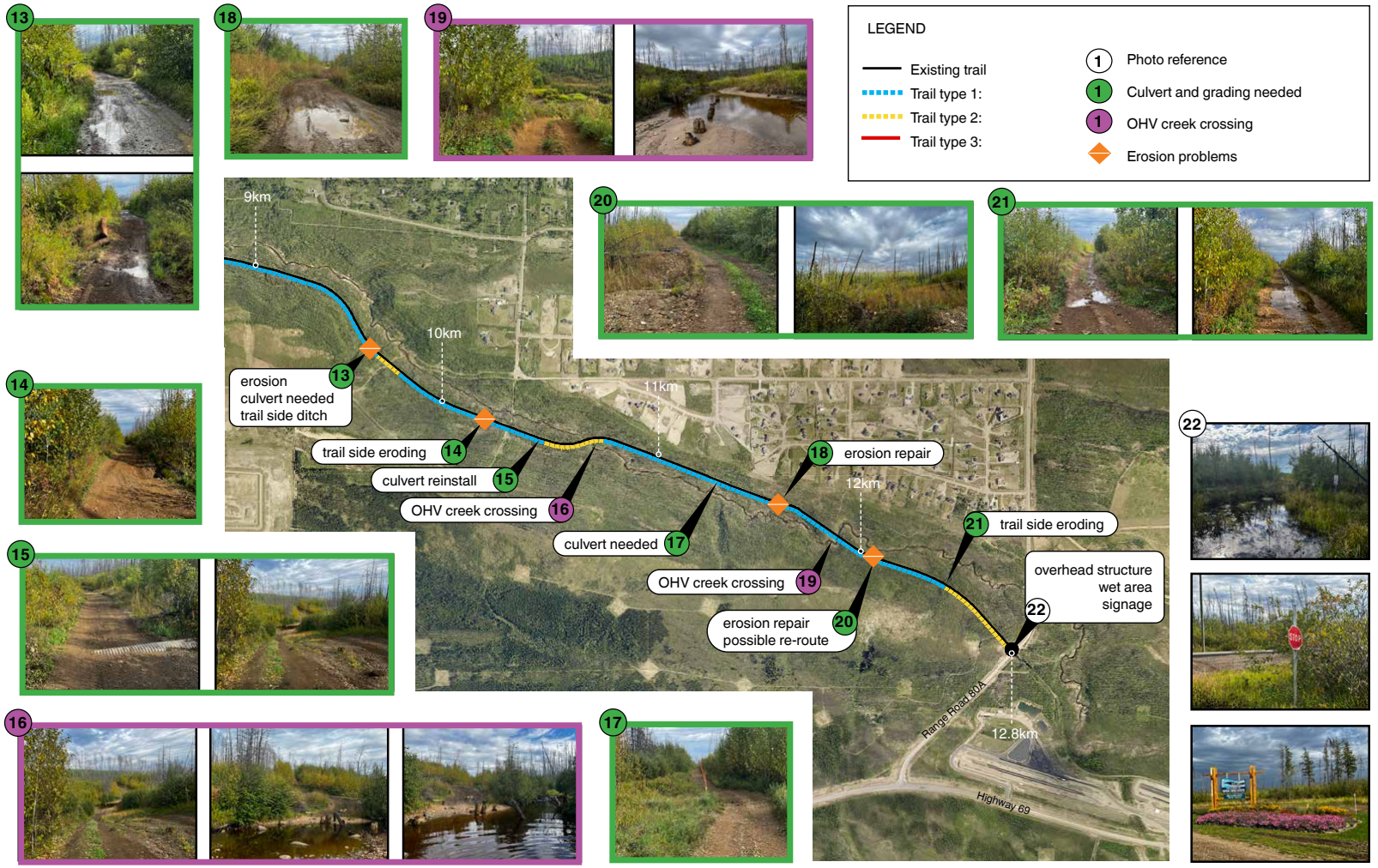
7. Creek crossing #1
8. Landslide / trailside erosion
9. Creek crossing #2
10. Drainage concerns
11. Creek crossing #3 and drainage concerns
12. Trail in great condition

Findings to-Date: Site Investigation



13. Drainage concerns
14. Trailside eroding
15. Culvert reinstallation
16. Creek crossing #4
17. Culvert needed
18. Drainage concerns and erosion
19. Creek crossing #5

Findings to-Date: Site Investigation



20. Considerable erosion – consider trail reroute

21. Trailside erosion and drainage concerns

22. Road crossing – very wet area – drainage concerns

Findings to-Date: Site Investigation

(continued)

ACTIVITY:

- Are there any existing conditions not mentioned that we should be aware of?
  - Secondary trail alignments
  - Areas needing significant repair
  - Areas of user conflict
- area

Regulatory Considerations



Creek Crossings:

- Approvals needed (Alberta Environment and Parks, Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Fisheries Act, etc.)
- Costs associated with work
- Environmental impacts











Regulatory Considerations

(continued)

ACTIVITY:

- What do you currently use Draper Trail for?
- What do you hope to be able to use Draper Trail for in the future?
- Taking what you have just learned into consideration, what improvements do you think should be made to the trail that would increase your level of enjoyment and usage?

Next Steps

- Online public engagement using *Participate Wood Buffalo* (survey open until December 19th)
- Creation of draft report
- Follow-up workshop with residents and stakeholders to review draft (January 31)
- Following completion of engagement, a "What We Heard Report" will be created and shared with residents on this project page
- Finalization of a report that outlines the feasibility of various improvements along this stretch of trail



Open Discussion



- Time to look at some of the topics that were added to today's discussion at the onset of the workshop
- Anything else to discuss?
- Questions?

Thank You

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo