

March 3, 2020

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Minister Responsible for Parks Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 CANADA
(Also sent by email to Jonathan.Wilkinson@canada.ca)

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

RE: Hog's Back Fixed Bridge Rehabilitation

I am writing to you on behalf of the Riverside Park Community Association and in support of a January 21, 2020 letter from Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, asking for your assistance in expediting the completion of the Hog's Back fixed bridge rehabilitation project.

Our community association advocates for residents and businesses located around Mooney's Bay in Ottawa and we are being significantly and negatively impacted by the current closure of Hog's Back Road, between Colonel By Drive and Prince of Wales Drive. Though the swing bridge rehabilitation is vital and overdue, it is, as you know, extremely disruptive to local and commuter traffic. No through-traffic on Hog's Back Road to Prince of Wales Drive has resulted in excessive traffic volumes on Heron Road, Riverside Drive, Baseline Road, and Hunt Club Road.

Since the Mayor's letter was sent, the National Capital Commission has announced a delay to the project that will see the bridge closure extended by an additional three months, until August 28th, 2020. Once repairs to the swing bridge are completed, Parks Canada will begin construction on the fixed bridge for another eight months, extending this road disruption into Spring 2021.

Therefore, we are echoing Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and River Ward Councillor Riley Brockington in their request that Parks Canada consider all possible measures to shorten construction timelines and mitigate impacts, including the implementation of an evening and/or weekend construction schedule.

We are grateful for your urgent attention to this matter and would appreciate a response confirming your plans to address these concerns. We also hope to maintain open lines of communication with your office during construction, so we can keep residents updated on progress.

We wish you all the best in this vital refurbishment, and we believe that Parks Canada and local residents are united in a shared desire for a successful outcome, with minimal disruption throughout.

Thank you,



Joel Duff
President

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Riverside Park Community Association (RPCA)

Copied to:

Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

Hon. David McGuinty, Member of Parliament, Ottawa South

Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa

Riley Brockington, River Ward Councillor, City of Ottawa

Tobi Nussbaum, Chief Executive Officer, National Capital Commission