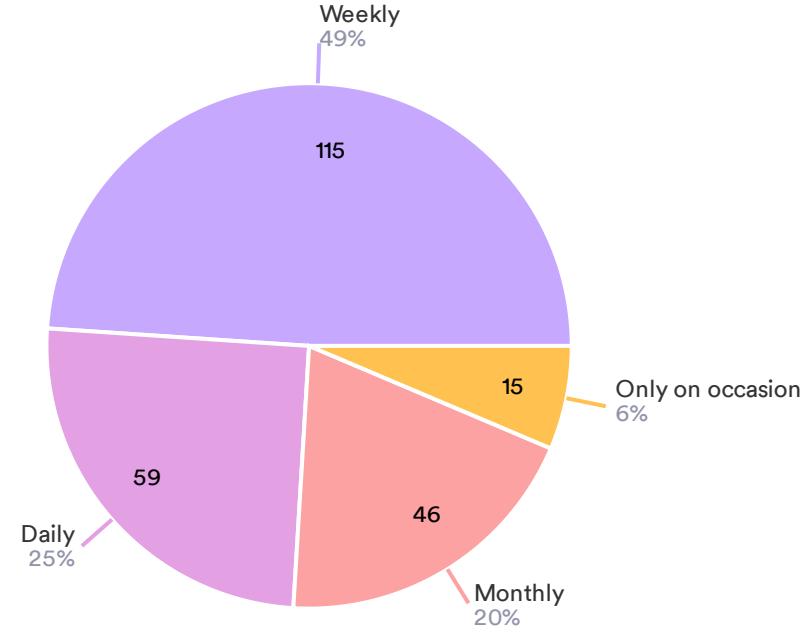


Smith Bridge Poll 1 Report

August 27 - October 31, 2022

How often do you use the Smith Bridge?

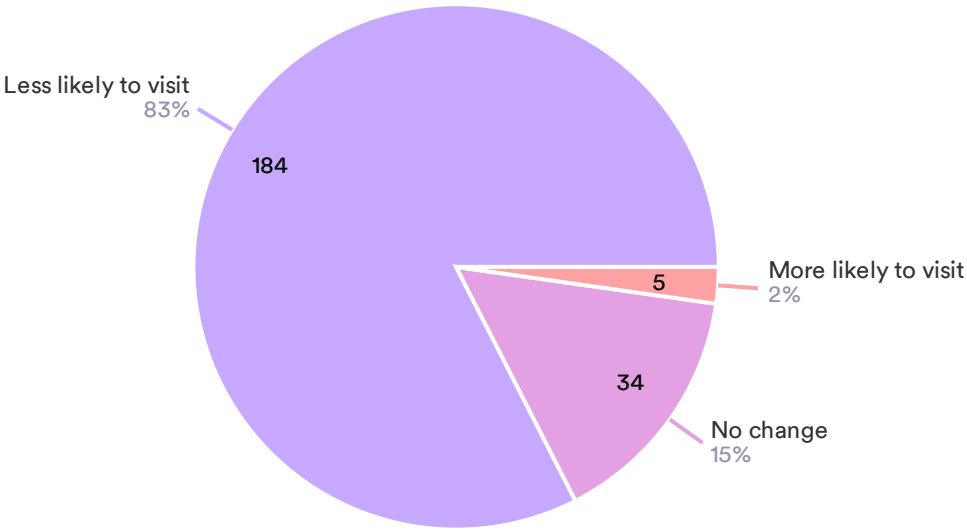
235 Responses



● Weekly ● Daily ● Monthly ● Only on occasion

If the Smith Bridge was closed, how would this affect your intentions to visit the area?

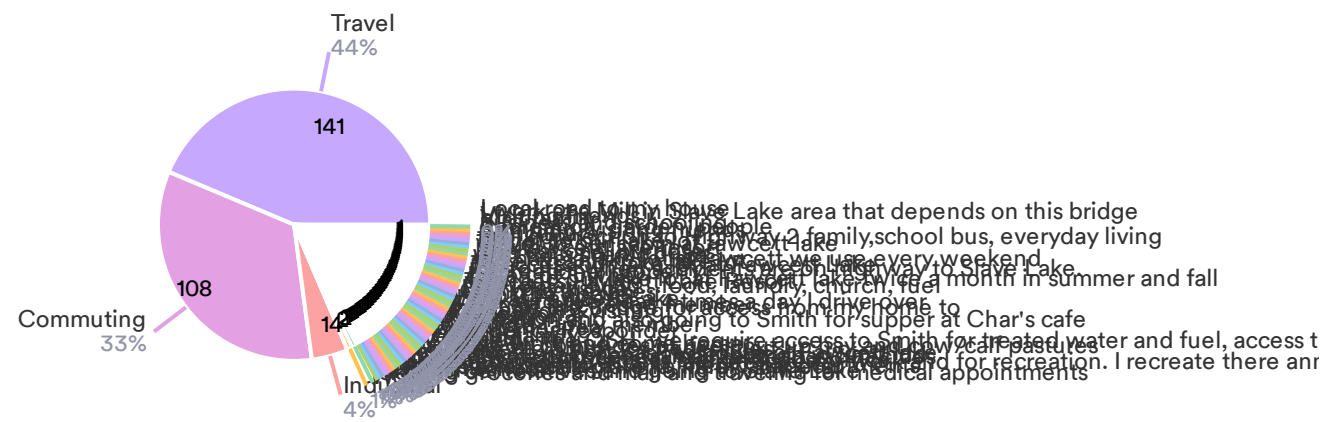
223 Responses- 12 Empty



● Less likely to visit ● No change ● More likely to visit

How do you use the Smith Bridge?

323 Responses



- Travel ● Commuting ● Industrial ● Work ● Getting groceries and mail and traveling for medical appointments ● visiting our relatives and going to Slave Lake
- Child in school ● Water station, riding arena, library, 4h, etc. ● Pick up senior and drive to medical appointments ● Hunting
- I use the bridge to access fawcett lake for work and for recreation. I recreate there annually. I complete provincial projects there every 2 to 3 years.
- Groceries, water, transfer station & post office ● getting water, groceries ,mail,sewer,basic necities ● Post office, groceries, transfer station in Smithdd
- From house in Fort Sask to house at Fawcett lake. ● Tourism ● For travel to Smith for necessities ● farming on both sides of river, put up hay and cow/calf pastures
- to go to work and come home
- We live on the OSH, we require access to Smith for treated water and fuel, access to Athabasca for food, medical, affordable fuel, and access to travel south. Residents of the OSH and o...
- Camping ● Visiting family ● Farming ● Emergency Responder ● Live in the area ● Visiting a family member ● Resident
- Recreation and also going to Smith for supper at Char's cafe ● Recreation ● Recreational ● Recreation &visiting ● I require the Bridge for access from my home to
- Fawcett lake resort member. ● Work and live near 4 times a day I drive over ● Live at Fawcett Lake ● All of the above ● Going to the lakes ● Everyday usage
- Day to day living...food, laundry, church, fuel ● To access Fawcett Lake Resort ● Going to our lake lot at Fawcett lake twice a month in summer and fall ● Lake Lot Owner
- Recreational property ● Re-routes when accidents are on highway to Slave Lake. ● To access our lake lot at Fawcett Lake ● travel to and from lake lot
- We have a lake lot at fawcett we use every weekend ● Just for a scenic drive ● Recreational purposes ● Vist fawcett lake resort ● Travel to our cabin at fawcett lake
- To get to our lake lot ● mail,connection to Highway 2,family,school bus, everyday living ● Agriculture ● Camping, visiting friends ● Recreation, garden, people
- Business and schooling ● Visit family ● Visiting friends ● I work at a Mill in Slave Lake area that depends on this bridge ● Local road to my house

Additional Comments 1

Data

This bridge is essential to all residents residing north of the Athabasca river that call Smith their home. I use this bridge twice per day to commute to work in Slave Lake. I need to use the bridge to get my mail, fuel my vehicles, and purchase food in the hamlet of Slave Lake. The loss of this bridge would harm the local economy in a big way, it is absolutely essential to keep this travel route open!

The Smith Bridge is used by many to go to and from work. Many people live on the other side of the river that need to come to Smith daily or at least a few times per week. I use it the most in the winter to get to work at the mills. It is by far the safest way to get to work in the winter. I would not be happy at all if we lost the bridge. It is a necessary and vital bridge that we must not allow to close.

We use the Smith bridge at minimum twice a month. We get water and dispose our wastewater in Smith. Closing the bridge would mean we would need to get these services from Slave Lake, most likely at a higher cost due to extra travel time. It would also mean longer travel time to dispose of our household garbage. We support the local businesses in Smith and with the bridge closed we would no longer have that opportunity.

I love the bridge, but it is a prerogative to get it fixed. We have to have it in order to keep connected to the other side of our hamlet and a second route out of our hamlet. I remember when the fire threatened us, we had to use the back road out of here. It is also important for more industry to come into our area to keep our hamlet viable and our school open. Many people who live across the river use the post office in Smith and other business here. That would certainly change everything if we no longer had access. It would completely change the dynamics of our community.

We need this bridge. Saves a lot of time commuting to work. And for going to Fawcett Lake.

With my work situation being on both sides of the river I would lose the work and income on the Slave Lake side of the river.

For people to get water Fire truck to get north of bridge Fuel Groceries

The Smith bridge is our connection to our water supply, our mail, our garbage collection, our road maintenance, our fire protection and school. If we were unable to cross the Athabasca River by bridge, this would add about a hour travel time (times 2) both ways travelling for specialist appointments in Edmonton and dentist appointments in Westlock. This is a concern with ambulance response also. We need the bridge!!!

My wife and I live here, we need the bridge for water, food, fuel, garbage dump, sewer dump, mail, emergency services, and employment.

Loss of use of the bridge would cause financial hardship. The wear and tear on my vehicles commuting daily via Old Smith Hwy would be too much. Also, how would my child get to school daily? A normally 10 minute drive would turn into an hour and a half to two hour drive. The bridge is essential for my family.

Additional Comments 2

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If the bridge is going to be rebuilt i would suggest the color yellow would still be used. Another suggestion is to keep the top open to be able to facilitate tall items like hay to be easily transported.

I live north of the bridge and would be completely unable to get to Smith

Hello, Thank-You for taking the time to read my comments. I believe not rebuilding this bridge would be a huge loss to this community. As someone who is relevantly new to the MD community, i can only speak from a personal viewpoint. When we purchased our property location and access was a huge factor for us, the property we chose ended up being down the old smith highway. We specifically chose this place because of our work commute to Slave Lake, but also because our children are involved in many of the programs offered in Smith, as well as the amenities, for example, we travel for 4h, trail dusters horse club, SHARA events, the library, and more. Most critically, we also use the water station in Smith to refill our tanks, without this access we would need to travel all the way back to Slave Lake or drive all the way around to reach the highway to come all the way back to the Smith water station, then all the way back thru smith to get back to basically the bridge (the water station is just on the other side of the bridge) just to turn around 5 meters from said bridge to go all the way back around again to get back home. If this bridge was to not be rebuilt or heaven for bid i say it... close down, would negatively impact the community. In my opinion, this would greatly affect more than just my family and we need to work together to do what we can to help rebuild Smith bridge. Please let me know how I can help, in anyway! Please don't hesitate to call me, i can be reached at 780-849-8590 anytime. Thanks, Carley

It would be devastating to the community, school kids, commenters, families who live on either side, etc.

The Smith Bridge provides access to campgrounds on Fawcett Lake which have a population of about 300 families who are regular users, who are not included in any population survey of the area. These families should be included in any estimate of the number of people who are affected by this issue.

It makes sense to keep the bridge in good condition

Closing the bridge will cut off the rural community from Smith where people get water food and garbage drop off also would increase traffic on hwy2 north of 44 to an already very busy and fast hwy. It must be repaired

The bridge is vital to getting to fawcett lake within a reasonable amount of time. Without it would be a major inconvenience and I would be less likely to be head to Smith.

My in-laws live full time at Fawcett Lake. Closing the bridge would mean nearly an hour detour for them to get groceries or the mail, as well as add additional travel time for both us and them when visiting on weekends, and I am very concerned about the increased travel time it would take emergency services to access households around the lake should someone need medical care. Many of the people living full time around the lake are retired and advancing in age with more complex medical needs that come with aging. With the current strain Albertans are already facina with stress on the healthcare svstem this would be vet another barrier to accessina uraent emeraency care where time is of the essence. I hope that should the

Additional Comments 3

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If the bridge can not be repaired in a timely manner, and the bridge is shut down for transport, Smith will lose major tourism and business from travellers as well as transport trucks that come through the town. This will also increase the hunters in the WMU 510 area which could also have increased poaching activities. Smith Town small business rely on this transport road to remain open as well as having the appropriate funding. This will increase transport costs for those who will have to find alternative routes to cross the river, therefore increasing pricing again in a market that is currently struggling with inflation. It should not matter the location to determine the necessity of a bridge to be repaired. If it will affect transportation of goods and services, the bridge should be considered for repair

The Smith bridge is a vital life line to all the people on the north side of the bridge. Without this vital life line the community will be decimated.

Helps connect all the community.

We reside at Fawcett Lake. We need the bridge to access Smith for necessities (mail water, sewer). If the bridge were to close emergency services if required would take longer and possibly lives would be lost. Road services would cost more as the travel to our area would be much longer. The cost for us to travel for our needs (groceries, medicine, doctor, dentist, etc. would be greater as we would have to travel further. My last concern is that if the bridge is failing, then why are there still big loads travelling across the bridge?

I am a 86 year old man. I live full-time here. If the bridge is closed I would have to move to Edmonton, because appointments. Fire insurance. I would not get my mail, water, sewer removed. If they feel that the bridge is not safe they should not have all the big logging trucks and tank trucks using it. It feels like it is bullshit.

I live here fulltime, it would really affect my travelling. I am 65 years old diagnosed with a terminal disease, I have frequent doctors appointments. If the bridge was closed it would add 2 hrs one way to my travelling.

This is totally unacceptable that we are even contemplating whether or not a bridge is needed. Of course it is. For those of us that live in Fawcett Lake we depend on the bridge for access to Smith for our water supply, gas, mail plus more and travel to Edmonton for medical and personal reasons. Also what would happen to any emergency response, without a bridge how long would it take, how do you place a value on human life, what about a fire? Not to mention the hardships placed on the residents of Fawcett Lake, with fuel costs already high enough, how much more fuel will be necessary for travel? We cannot go without a bridge, too much depends on it. How can you cut off a community? Are we going back in time do we need a boat to cross the river....really?

We need a bridge and there are many reasons why. People rely on the bridge for health reasons to travel to doctors, for work, for school, gas, water and mail to mention a few. Commuting to Edmonton is also very important if it is required from Fawcett Lake without a bridge how long would the travel be? Fuel prices are high enough without adding extra travel. What would happen to the emergency response to Fawcett Lake, in the event there was a personal emergency or fire? At what point are people's lives worth it. There is no doubt a bridge is needed.

Having a bridge is a necessity. As a resident of Fawcett Lake I rely on travel to Smith on an ongoing basis for daily living. Our post office, water supply and gas is all located in Smith and is essential to us. Also we make trips to Edmonton for our medical needs. Why would you want to create extra stress and costs to the residences in order to travel for crucial needs? It is

Additional Comments 4

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I have lived in the Smith area both North and South of the bridge. Currently I live approximately 4 kms south of the bridge. During my time living north of the bridge the bridge provided access to work, school, groceries, gas, fire protection, community events and a much shorter convenient route to southern parts of the province. Living south the bridge provides access to Fawcett Lake (a very popular spot), an alternative route to Slave Lake in case of poor winter driving conditions on Hwy 2. The bridge also provides an alternative route for Hwy 2 closure due to an accident. In short, the Smith Bridge is vital to the existence and future development of Smith and surrounding area.

I have family and friends that live across the bridge from Smith. I travel regularly to see them. It would separate me from seeing them unless I was able to make a 2 to 2 1/2 hr trip. If the bridge was closed it is my opinion it would have detrimental effects for the community of Smith as well as all the people that use the bridge. It would be devastating to say the least to the school and any business in the area. It would result in families and friends not being able to maintain the relationships they have now. People on the opposite of Smith bridge would be cut off in accessing mail and make it almost impossible to participate in the Smith community.

I support the bridge being repaired, widened and with better lights for night travel.

We live at Fawcett Lake and use the Smith bridge over the Athabasca river multiple times a week. Closing the bridge will add over one hour to a normal 2-1/2 hour commute to Edmonton for doctor/dentist appointments & visits with our grandchildren. With the price of fuel, adding over 100km of driving is an unreasonable burden to fixed income people like us.

Keep up the good fight!

We do need a bridge

this bridge is a nice life line to Smith, hi-way, water waste disposal, emergency services, groceries, school, only one way in or out. Replace the bridge the time has expired the bridge was revenue to the government for many years. It is time now to replace the bridge for future developments, travel and industrial resources, time is NOW with a safety factor for no unforeseen incidents.

Smith is a wonderful community carved along the Athabasca river. The bridge provides access for large and small business, farmers and tourists. Should the bridge disappear so too might the community.

If bridge were to close we would be unable to use Smith facilities and would have to go to Slave Lake.

We live between two properties, spending about ten days a month at Fawcett lake. This means travel across Smith bridge about 8-10 times a month. Not having the bridge would add over 200KM travel onto a trip that currently is only 250KM. Those extra couple of hours travel would reduce the number of times I would be able to use my property due to work schedule. The

Additional Comments 5

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We need bridge for emergency services, fire, ambulance,. Old bridge should be kept till new is in place. Mail road maintenance, school buses and many other necessities would be greatly impacted with no bridge. Lets do it right and not abandon those living on the other side of the river!!

If the Smith bridge closes the impact on residents that use it would cause severe hardships. It is so important that the the needs of the people be realized. Trips over the bridge by residents are not just for leisure. However, as we have realized throughout the pandemic, socialization is very important. The Legion and the Century Plus club to much to fulfill our socialization needs. The shuffleboard nights, the bingos, the monthly dinners at the Century Plus allow for socialization. Access to the library would be hindered. Not everyone reads books on electronic devices and accessing the library is important to them. Mail must be picked up, sometimes two or three times a week if one is expecting referral letters from specialists, medical test results, incoming bills, etc. Driving more than two hours to pick up mail is unrealistic and one can't always plan to combine a trip to fulfill two needs. Trash needs to be taken to the transfer station twice weekly in most cases, otherwise residents risk drawing in predator wildlife, not to mention that in the summer the decomposition of food waste and the odors associated with it also acts as attractments. Trips for medical appointments, many, if not most, are in Edmonton and it's environs. Closing the bridge would add, at minimum, another one and a half to two hours hours one way. Some appointments are very early in the morning (6 AM) in the case of certain procedures and tests. This would result in one having to leave home at 1:30 AM to allow for the extra travel time to ensure that you arrive for the appointment at the scheduled time. Driving in the winter also adds extra time to traveling. It is not always in the budget of those on fixed incomes to pay for lodging as well as the cost of fuel. Commitments at home need to also be considered and overnight trips might not be feasible. A trip to Edmonton for even a regular doctor appointment currently takes 5 - 6 hours of travel. Adding another 4 hours in the summer when driving conditions are good poses an even greater problem in the winter months or in inclement weather. It needs to be taken into consideration that the population here is aging, also. If one needs a few groceries, driving at least two hours for bread, milk, eggs etc is also cost prohibitive. How much business with the grocery store lose if the families that use the bridge cannot access it? How much business will the gas station and the two restaurants and the laundromat lose? The economic downturn would be disastrous for those businesses. It must also be taken into account that many residents that use the bridge need to haul water. Driving an extra two or more hours again will pose hardships on them. Septic tanks need to be emptied. Without the bridge, the cost to have the tanks emptied would increase the associated costs. Again, many of the residents are on fixed incomes and their budgets cannot handle all the increased costs that are associated especially with the rising costs of electricity, home heating, and fuel. The risk of fires, home and forest must be looked at. It is unrealistic to expect the fire department from Slave Lake to attend a fire and have any hope of suppressing a fire and increases exponentially the risk of a small fire escalating into a major concern. In the case of Broken Paddle or the resort, this could mean the destruction of much of those developments and the forests surrounding them. Closure of the Smith bridge must not happen. To do so would cause untold hardships on the residents that depend on it and disastrous to all living in the evrions. Repair it. Do not close it.

I have a 4 season cabin at Broken Paddle Fawcett lake. This would be a big cost in time and fuel to have to go out and around to get to my Cabin I would like to see that the large heavy trucks be banded from using the bridge until a replacement is build along side of the old bridge. Just by shutting the bridge down it will affect the tourism in Smith along with other people that live in the area, camper's and hunter's also

Is it possible to keep the bridge open for light traffic only

There are so many reasons why this bridge is needed. Firstly what is the value of someone's life? The response for any emergency will be greatly affected. People in the community rely on

Additional Comments 6

Data

The question above does not allow you to un tick. I don't want anything ticked in the question above. If the bridge was closed, we would not be able to access our cattle and farm land, this is unacceptable.

I do not feel safe driving on it! Have seen huge tanker , gravel and logging trucks crossing, a lot of them over there weight limit. Also the planks are usually loose and and not good on anyone's tires! Not safe!!!

Every time I go to Slave Lake , work or visiting; I think is this the last time I can use the bridge?

We have lived on the North side of the Smith Bridge for the last 40 years. I go to and from work 5 days a week .We get our mail at Smith and support our local businesses. We go to our family doctor, to specialists appointments in Edmonton. We visit family in Athabasca, Fawcett, Westlock, Edmonton all using this bridge. The School buses use this bridge to bring students to our local school to help fill the classrooms. Our community businesses rely on this bridge to bring tourists and oilfield construction to help support our community. it is absolutely appalling that our Provincial and or Federal Government cannot see the impact this bridge has on our community and the lives of the people living here.

I live along the old smith highway and it would affect myself and my family lots if the bridge was closed I also think it's a important secondary detour road for when highway 2 is closed going towards slave lake like it has in the past. Also it would affect emergency help access to our area

Without that bridge it would add 1 hour ever Friday to our commute to our recreational property. Then again 1 hour to our return on Sunday. With our 3 hour commute turning to 4 we would sell our recreational property and find somewhere closer and easier to get to.

If the bridge at Smith shuts down, we will sell our property instantly and leave the area to a more reasonable, comfortable and accomodating neighbourhood, in the central region. The previous 25 years of travelling on these horrendous, poorly maintained roads has sapped us of our patience. And it has destroyed our vehicles, what with the large industrial truck traffic and ridiculous volume of calcium chloride salt poured on the road for decades. Furthermore, closure of the bridge will create a situation in which a large fire could cause us to become trapped; this is not an unreasonable premise, we have dodged four large fires in our time living here, if I recall. Finally, we need the bridge open to fetch potable water, there is no other reasonable option. The Marten Hills crude oil play, and the timber companies, in conjunction with the province, have more than enough money to foot the bill. We suffer enough travelling on the terribly rough roads we share with their large truck traffic, unhappily and dangerously in some instances

Having a safe bridge is critical for the residents of Smith. Those who live across it need to be able to get to town safely. If the bridge collapses due to the absolute neglect and disregard from the MD, what will happen then? It's pathetic the way that this is being approached, putting it out as a survey to see how valuable this is. If not enough people respond, are you just going to leave it alone, out of sight out of mind?

If it was closed massive amount of pleasure sites will take huge hits financially and all residents across the bridge would be in trouble. Our family would end up having to go all the way through slave to get to our campsite adding 3 hours of driving to get there.

Additional Comments 7

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<p>If the bridge were to close then a 10 minute drive to Smith from the old Smith highway would take hours because Everyone would have to go around. Fawcett lake would be more difficult to access and the restaurants in smith would get way less business.</p>
<p>As a resident of Smith and work in Slave Lake, I use the Smith bridge daily on my commute to work in the winter months. The Highway can be very dangerous in the winter and I depend on the Access to the Old Smith highway to get to and from work safe and sound.</p>
<p>I use this bridge everyday for work. Closing this bridge down would add 45 minutes to an hour to my commute forcing me to the already crowded highway.</p>
<p>It's an access in and out of Smith</p>
<p>When we have trouble on hiway 2 it has been a saving grace to be able to reroute traffic via the old Smith</p>
<p>Need this bridge to commute for work. Prefer the backroad over the highway especially during the winter. Please fix the bridge. Thank you.</p>
<p>Use this bridge to get to work Via the old smith highway everyday in the winter.</p>
<p>Please do not shut down this bridge, as it is the safest way in the winter for me to go to and from home</p>
<p>The town would lose access to tourism going to Fawcett lake, which would hurt local businesses. The loss of the bridge would leave the town without an alternative escape route in the event of a forest fire along the highway, and the residents of the far side of the river trapped should there be a fire along the old highway.</p>
<p>I'm worried of being trapped on the north side of the river if there is a forest fire or other emergency. I need to get to Edmonton on occasion for medical and other reasons and it would make the trip a two day affair and be more costly and physically exhausting.</p>
<p>It would increase the time to get to Edmonton for medical appointments by 2 hours at least and cause additional wear and tear on vehicles. This bridge is critical for those living on the north side of the river</p>
<p>I live in smith and the bridge is necessary period.</p>

Additional Comments 8

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It would effect my job and our availability to access our land and animals across the river.

If it closed, that would change my 15 min daily commute to work and home to 80 mins. Very inconvenient

New bridge would make it so we do not have to wait for traffic to clear off to respond to fire hall as a first responder or even wait to cross back with emergency vehicles to help community citizens.

The main highway 2 bridge over the Athabasca is also an old piece of garbage needing some serious work. A pre teen child can easily see below it all the rusty pieces, missing foundations and terrible state of a major bridge. Both need to be fixed ASAP

When designing the layout of the new bridge consideration should be given to the area beside as major dirtwork will need to be done, an access point/boat launch should be incorporated into the construction proposal. This would increase tourism to the area and provide quick access to the river for emergencies. Should someone on the river be in distress

When the bridge was closed in 2007-08ish for redecking, this caused so much undue stress on residents. They had to travel an excessive amount for gas and groceries, let alone being able to pick up their mail. If this bridge was to close, not only would these people be exposed to that again, but now the price of gas is exponentially higher. Also for the increase in work being done north of the river, if there was an emergency, it would take emergency services even longer to get to them. With staffing crises and the number of ambulances being shut down daily, there is a risk that a unit would need to attend from hours away in the opposite direction to attend. Shame on the Alberta Gov't for putting it's hard working, tax paying citizens at risk.

The town of Smith businesses will be negatively impacted, significantly.

I think a reasonable detour should be planned ahead and made before the renovations should take place.

I own land and have animals in the area. It's harder to care and feed them if there is no bridge.

Sure like to see a new one before disaster strikes in my community I live north of the river and travel this daily sometimes several times a day to work it's frightening to know this is so unstable this needs to be replaced And perhaps a open top bridge would allow more industry to come through our community and give our hamlet more business for our retail

We have a lake lot at Fawcett. so that is the only way to get to our lake lot

Additional Comments 9

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<p>I would have to drive at least 2 hours farther. That's not good for anybody. I'm not the only one. In this time of environmental change, driving more is not beneficial to the environment. Also emergency situations will be effected in a very negative way. Industry also will be effected. It could possibly kill the town of Smith if this bridge isn't replaced. We all need this bridge replaced. NOW.</p>
<p>We have a lake lot on Fawcett Lake Resort and we generally cross that bridge to get to our site. If the bridge closed we could still get to our site but it would be difficult and more time. We love stopping at the store and gas station in town and getting a pizza from Smith Donaire and Pizza. I would love to see it redone.</p>
<p>The closure will completely impede route to home in Fawcett Lake both for travel to and from and for emergency services access</p>
<p>Access to emergency vehicles for fire and ambulance to the surrounding area will put farms, recreation cottage resort land and families at a higher risk without the Smith bridge. Why wait until no access is permitted because the bridge is unsafe which will not permit these emergency vehicles the people that live in the area and will also put the hamlet of Smith's businesses to suffer without the Smith bridge.</p>
<p>Access to the town weekly getting water, fuel, going to the dump, the store and restaurants would be impossible without the Smith bridge.</p>
<p>This is something that NEEDS to be replaced to preserve all the industry that utilizes the bridge as well as the opportunities out there for new revenue flows. Additionally, the safety aspect for residents is a big concern if there's a train stopped on the other entrance to the town.</p>
<p>It would be inconvenient for sure for the bridge to be closed for a length of time. The height of the bridge has effected some route decisions we have made in the past.</p>
<p>Must be left open well building another bridge.</p>
<p>I live in Smith and it would be nice if the bridge gets fix/improved but hopeful not closed for too long because a lot of people who live in this area use it to get their mail</p>
<p>Now is the time. Further delays increases the cost and further degrades the already over time bridge. As a Fawcett lake resident the bridge is vital for emergency services as well as water and sewer services.</p>
<p>If the bridge is closed it would kill recreation and tourism for Fawcett Lake and force people to drive around through Slave Lake as well as everyone that lives west of the river including the full time residents of Broken Paddle. This would kill all potential real estate sales having the only access through Slave. It would greatly deter people from this area. This would be a detrimental effect on essential services such as medical and fire. Smith would become a ghost town.</p>

Additional Comments 10

Data
<p>This bridge is a requirement for local residents and industrial access. Traveling from smith to the marten hills would require access through mitsue and sssentially kill the town of smith and the local tourism.</p>
<p>We, along with many other from south of Smith, have a second residence at Fawcett Lake. No bridge would add a significant amount of time to the commute to those properties, likely less visiting, and less shopping as we usually stop for gas or groceries/snacks. The bridge is vital to the community and commerce.</p>
<p>We would like to see a boat launch built adjacent to the bridge. This is needed in the community for both recreational and safety purposes.</p>
<p>If the bridge was closed it would add an extra 1.5 hours each way from my commute. As well my community of Broken Paddle would be cut off from emergency services from smith and would have to wait for them to be dispatched from Slave lake which in a medical emergency could cost some their life having to wait the added time</p>
<p>I have to cross the Smith bridge to get anywhere, without it I can't even get my mail from Smith.</p>
<p>I am a permanent resident of Fawcett Lake. If the bridge were to close I would no longer be able to live in my current home. I am an elderly senior it would not be practical to attempt to live in a home that would be at least one and a half hours from any commercial or medical infrastructure. In addition I would probably be unable to sell my home for any where near a fair market value. The whole community would suffer extreme financial distress and an unsatisfactory quality of life.</p>
<p>This is the shortest way,if not the only way, to get to Fawcett lake resort. We pay property taxes on our lot's and would not be very happy if it closes.</p>
<p>The bridge is the main source of transportation for crossing the river and not having to travel kilometres out of the way</p>
<p>We travel from Edmonton to our property in Broken Paddle every weekend, the closure of the bridge would be terrible for our commute and we wouldn't be able to stop in Smith and support local restaurants/stores.</p>
<p>It definitely needs an upgrade Would also help our tourists</p>
<p>I get my mail, groceries, participate in community functions, cross the bridge to go to Doctor in Westlock. Since I already live north of the bridge other people would not visit us. Also I believe there are school children that need to go to school which is across the bridge</p>
<p>Needs to be higher and wider for the industrial transportation. Affect multiple operations and services around smith</p>

Additional Comments 11

Data
Time for it to be replaced.
We live at KM26 on the old Smith highway. A trip to Edmonton would entail us travelling west to Mitsue, then back east on #2, an extra 40 minutes of commute, should the bridge was to close.
No change because I live here. It would be a bit inconvenient but if the bridge requires upgrading then i will take the inconvenience.
This is a life line for students who go to school in athabasca or adults who work in Athabasca. Would add 80 min to the 60 min drive to athabasca. It would separate families and I would not be able to go to work, as I drive the high school bus to athabasca and the cutoff for aspen view goes to the 36 km mark on old smith highway.
The Smith Bridge is very important in keeping locals and visitors connected as well as ensuring a shorter route for children to get to school. Local businesses would suffer greatly if there was no bridge along with the Hamlet of Smith.
It would be a great inconvenience. It is my way out to highway 44 and 2. I need to access it to get groceries and other essentials. I get my mail in Smith, water and go to the garbage site at least once a week.
If this bridge is closed Smith would die off. It needs to stay open!!!!
From an Emergency Services standpoint alone, the Smith Bridge is a vital piece of infrastructure. It is also an alternative evacuation route for many northern communities. Without this bridge, you will not only endanger folks with limited emergency services, but will also greatly affect the Economics of the area. Alberta taxpayers were billed over a Billion dollars for electrical transmission lines from a closed generating station to a facility construction permanently cancelled in Ft. Mac. How many bridges could we have maintained with those funds? The Government needs to start maintaining infrastructure before the repairs cost substantially more than normal maintenance.
I have to use the smith bridge to get to work. If I was unable to utilize the smith bridge then my 10 minute commute to work would be more than an hour!
it is great to have an other rout if the highway is closed. In fact this was the first time I used this bridge, was for this reason.
I live in the area so this would be a huge inconvenience if the bridge closed

Additional Comments 12

Data
<p>We use the bridge all year long, traveling to our 2nd home / cabin. We shop in Smith and use the restaurants every time we come to the area, multiple times per month. If there was no bridge there, we would have to drive in using a much farther/different way - and would not drive through or visit Smith at all.</p>
<p>I have lived in the area for most of my life. I travel over that bridge almost everyday in the summer. If your going to open that bridge up to more traffic then you had better look at upkeeping the Smith hill and Old Smith highway better. Right now there is huge holes at the top of the hill and no one seems to care. Also those that live in the area knew about the bridge long ago, maybe instead of leaving log jams on the supports for months and months it might have helped</p>
<p>Closing that bridge would be detrimental to both industry commercial tourism closing that bridge shouldn't even be considered an option</p>