



Hamlet of Grise Fiord
P.O. Box 77, Grise Fiord, NU
X0A 0J0

Supporting Planning for a Pedestrian Walkway to Cross ‘Airport River’

David General (SAO)

September 10, 2024

Overview

- The Hamlet of Grise Fiord would like to position a pre-fabricated pedestrian walkway across the community’s “Airport River”;
- The River runs into the ocean, after passing under the community’s main bridge that is located on the primary road that runs alongside the ocean shore;
- The walkway would be used by residents to walk from the West side of the community to the East side of the community (a shortcut). It would be located approximately 200 meters upstream from the main bridge;
- Polar bears often frequent the ocean shore in the winter months, and it can be dangerous for pedestrians to walk across the main bridge along the shore;
- The River is very narrow, with low water flow most of the year. However in the spring the water flow is much heavier. Because the distance between the actual banks of the river is approximately 120, the water level does not rise significantly, but the width of the water flow widens to fill the available width; and
- The River supports no fish, and is basically glacial melt and rainwater.

Suggested Construction and Positioning of the Fedestrain Walkway

- Two large cement abutments, potentially up to 8 feet square, would be formed and positioned (embedded in) each of the river banks (please refer to the diagram shown in Appendix “A”); and
- The metal walkway that is purchased by the Hamlet will need to be 120 feet in length, and will come with railings for safety. The walkway is expected to be about 4 feet in width.

Logistics and Timing

- Should approval from the Nunavut Water Board be received during this winter season, the pedestrian walkway and the cement required for the two abutments will be brought to Grise Fiord on the 2025 sealift;
- The construction of the cement abutments (one at either end of the bridge, to which the bridge would be securely bolted) would therefore begin in late August, 2025;
- The walkway would arrive in sections, and would be assembled upon arrival, and then affixed to the cement abutments once the construction of those abutments is completed; and
- It is anticipated that the walkway would be completed by September, 2024.

Funding

- Funding that has been approved through the Housing Accelerator Fund will be utilized for the purchase and construction of this walkway.

Photo Documentation

The picture below is the actual river, taken from the edge of gravel towards the community, so looking (approximately) East



A similar shot, but pointing in a more North-East direction



Photo looking downstream, or approximately South. River level is very low at this time.



Another shot along the bank of the river (to which the water might reach at maximum flow) looking roughly South



A photo taken from close to the river edge facing approximately West. The actual bank of the river (potentially where water could spread to in the spring) is shown closer to the truck, and is where the 120 foot measurement was taken from.



This shot below is taken from the West river bank (where the water would fill out to in the spring) facing towards the East.



Appendix "A"

Potential Positioning of the Walkway Relative to the Terrain

