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Project Proposal: The Icefields Trail





The Proposal

A new bike and walking trail along the Icefields Parkway from Jasper to the Columbia Icefield.

With possible winter use along sections of the trail.





Parks Canada is committed to protecting ecological integrity,
while also providing more opportunities for Canadians to experience the outdoors and learn about our environment and heritage.





Public consultation and engagement is a key priority.

The Detailed Impact Analysis, along with input from public and partner consultations, will inform the decision on the overall project.





Route selection

Users feel comfortable while enjoying views and nature

Maximize use of existing infrastructure

Minimize effects on natural/cultural resources

Connect existing day use areas, viewpoints and campgrounds

Minimize the number of crossings





Proposed Route

109 km: Jasper – Wilcox Campground

Over 95% in Outdoor Recreation Zone

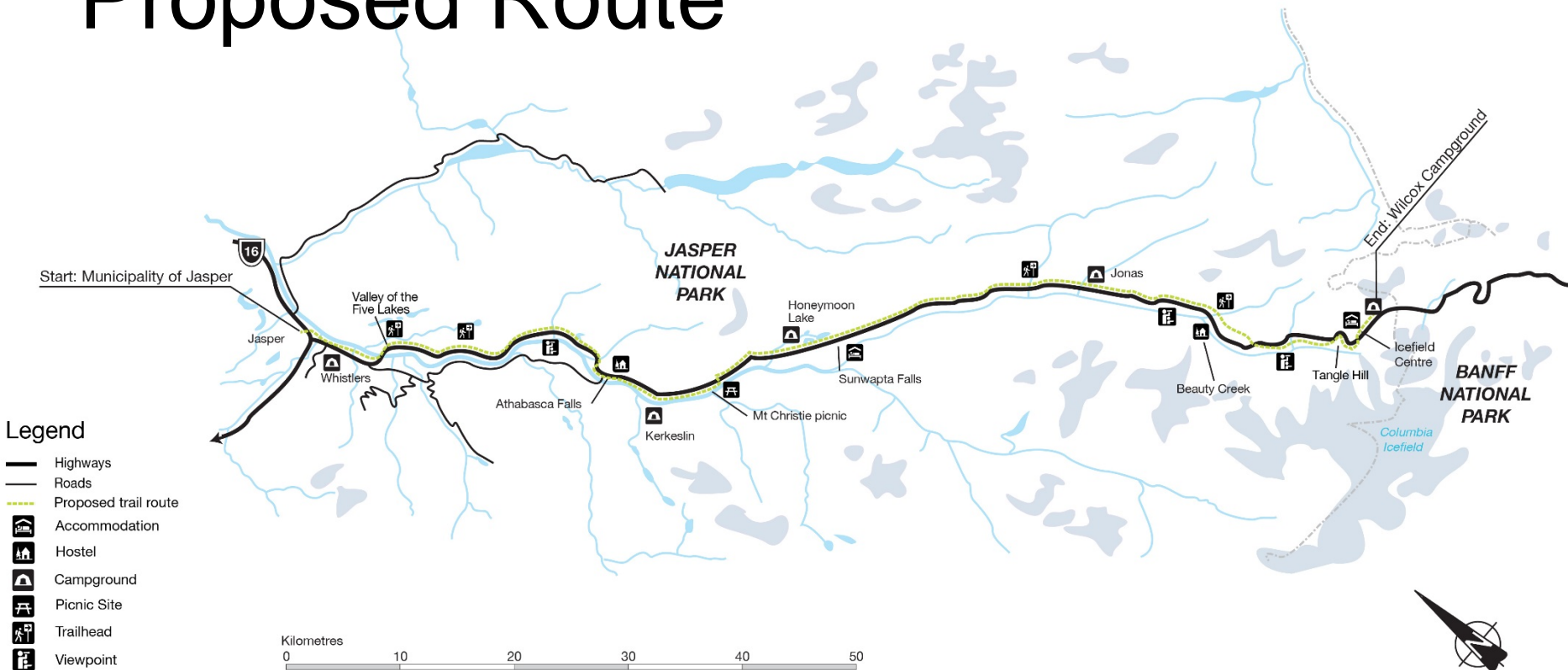
Use existing trails and portions of old road

Use existing bridges where possible



Athabasca River

Proposed Route





Old Road

Built in 1930s, (partly) paved

Abandoned in 1960s

Not rehabilitated; pavement and some infrastructure still in place

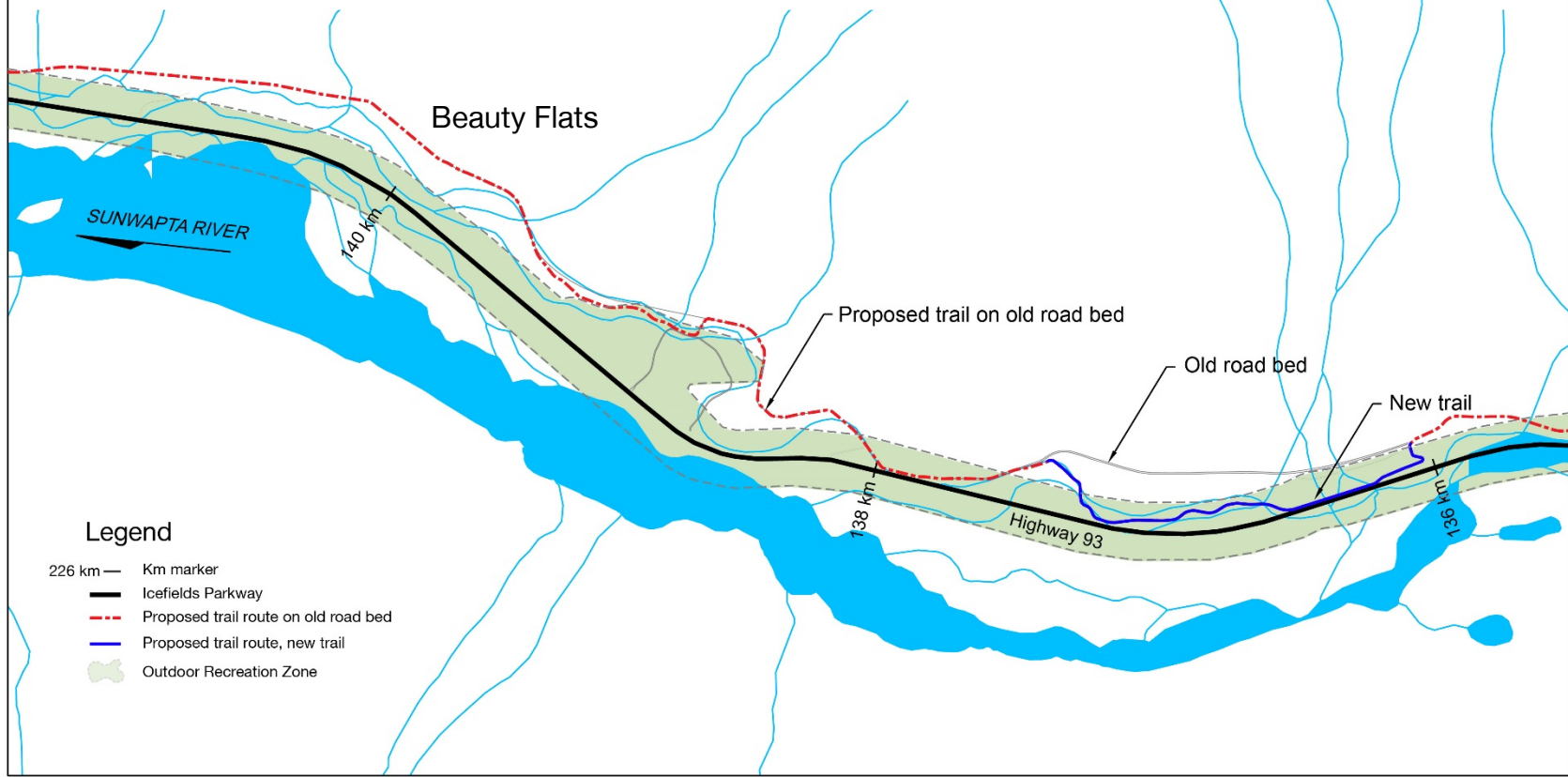
Using approx. 10 km

Mainly in Beauty Flats, 85 km south of Jasper



Beauty Flats

Map of trail through Beauty Flats



Beauty Flats

SUNWAPTA RIVER

140 km

Proposed trail on old road bed

Old road bed

New trail

Highway 93

138 km

136 km

Legend

- 226 km — Km marker
- Icefields Parkway
- - - Proposed trail route on old road bed
- Proposed trail route, new trail
- Outdoor Recreation Zone

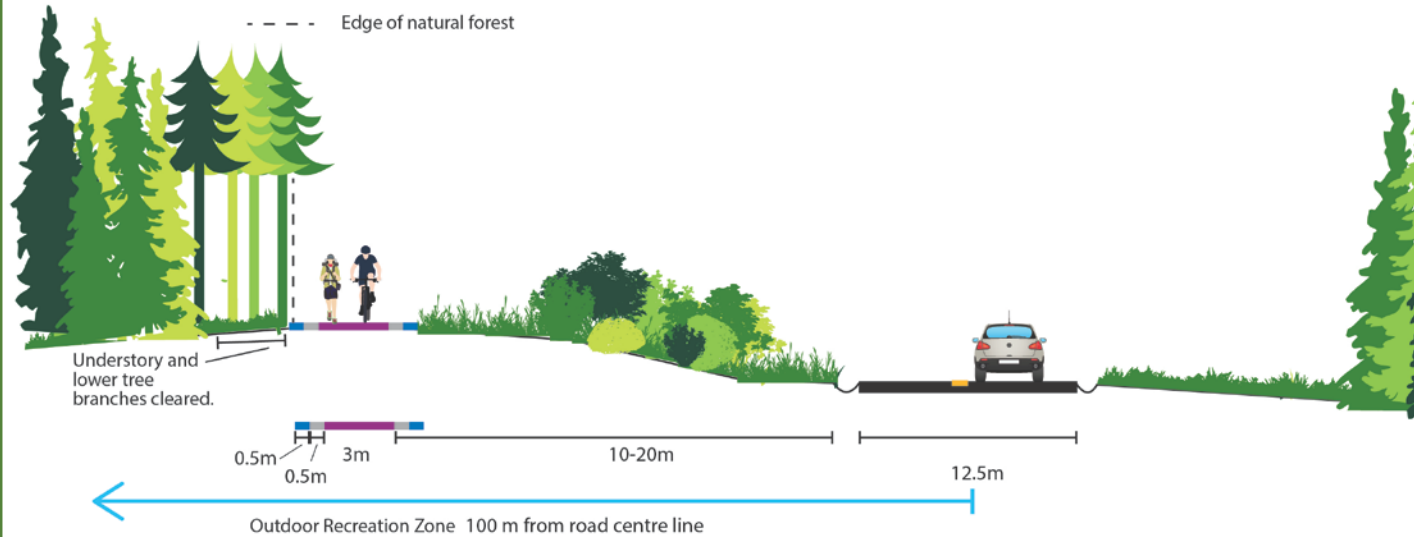


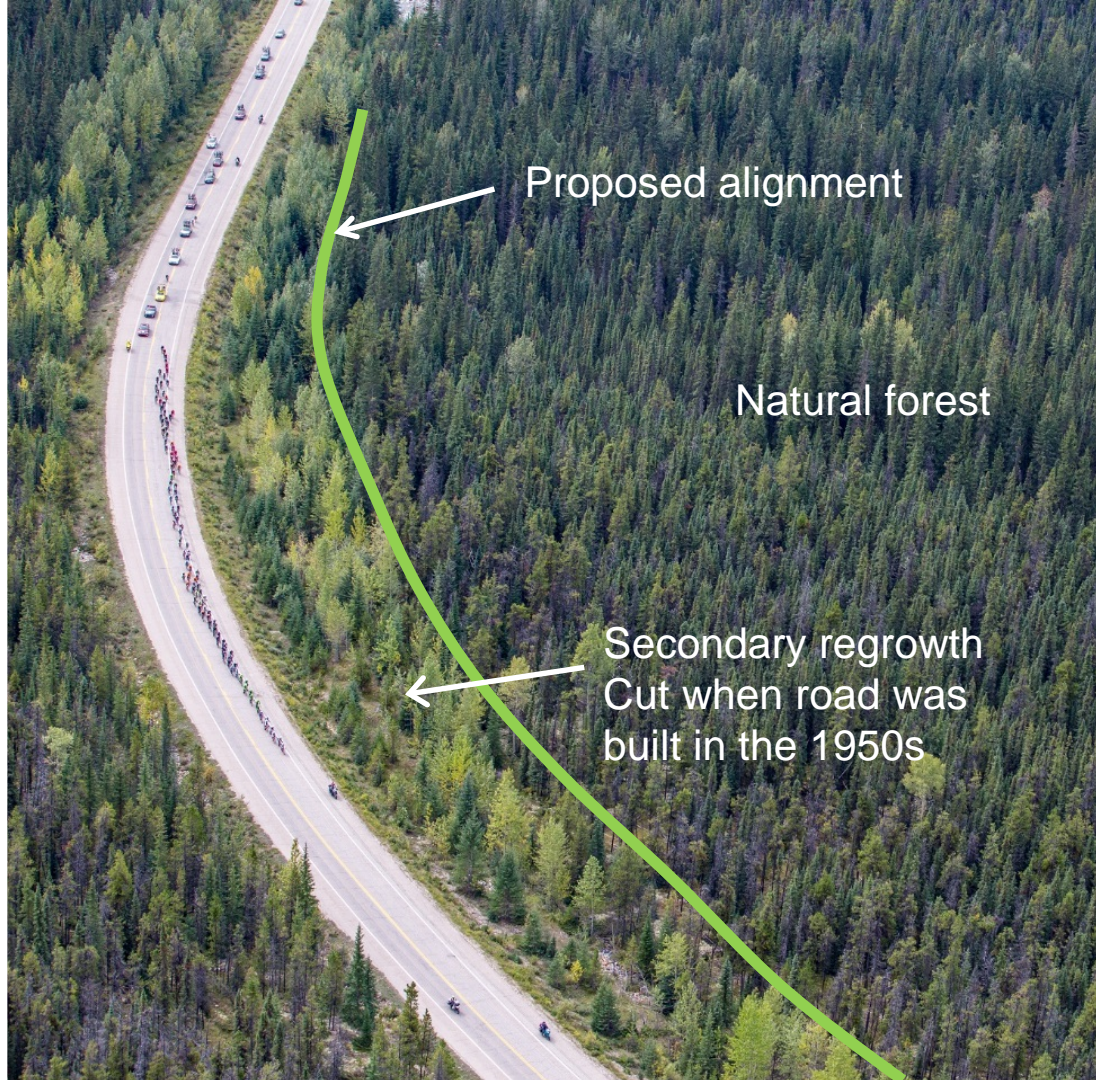


Proposed Layout

Legend

- Trail surface
- Gravel area
- Cleared area
- Icefield parkway with shoulders
- Distance marker
- Edge of natural forest







Design

- Build for speed of 30 km/hr.
 - ✓ - Use traffic calming
- Sightlines for ~40 m of view ahead
- Hardened surface



Banff Legacy Trail



Open terrain



Along edge of forest



Visitor experience

- Minimize road crossings
- Connect existing facilities
- Take advantage of new viewpoints
- Plan for interpretative stops



Goats and Glaciers viewpoint



Seeking feedback on three themes:

- Environmental Considerations
- Trail Design and Alignment
- Recreational Use and Tourism



Jonas Slide



Next Steps

| Item | Dates |
|---|----------------------------|
| Part 1: Public/Indigenous consultation - Input for drafting DIA | March 1 – April 24, 2017 |
| Drafting DIA for Part 2 of consultations – Incorporate Part 1 comments | May – July, 2017 |
| Part 2: Public/Indigenous consultation – review draft DIA - Draft Detailed Impact Analysis (including considering consultations) available for public and Indigenous review, available both in hard copy and online | mid July – mid August 2017 |
| Decision on Detailed Impact Analysis | September 2017 |



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All feedback is welcome