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 – Wilcoxe Campground

Over 95% in Outdoor Recreation Zone

Use existing trails and portions of old road

Use existing bridges where possible
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
Map of trail through Beauty Flats

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

SUNWAPTA RIVER

Proposed trail on old road bed
Old road bed
New trail

Scale: 0 500m 1000m
Proposed Layout

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

Understory and lower tree branches cleared.

Outdoor Recreation Zone 100 m from road centre line
Trail alignment

Natural forest

Secondary regrowth
Cut when road was built in the 1950s

Proposed alignment
Design

- Build for speed of 30 km/hr.
  - Use traffic calming

- Sightlines for ~40 m of view ahead

- Hardened surface
Banff Legacy Trail – partly in forest and partly in open terrain.

Along edge of forest

Open terrain
Visitor experience

- Minimize road crossings
- Connect existing facilities
- Take advantage of new viewpoints
- Plan for interpretative stops
Seeking feedback on three themes:

- Environmental Considerations
- Trail Design and Alignment
- Recreational Use and Tourism
## Next Steps

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