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### Hammersmith Bridge Grade II\* Listed Structure



## Hammersmith Bridge Overview



- A classic suspension bridge which relies on suspended chains to hold up the deck.
- As well as resting on two towers, at each corner the chains pass over a cast iron pedestal.
- Victorians included roller bearings on these pedestals and on top of the towers to allow chains to move a little, as temperatures or loads on the bridge changed.

## **Identified Challenges**

- 137 year old aging structure with the immediate problem that the bearings have seized.
- Seizure has resulted in lateral forces acting on the pedestals and towers which they were never designed to take.
- Cracks have been found in all cast iron pedestals
- These are not the only challenges, some 17 major defective elements need addressing before the bridge can be fully opened.

#### Removal of Casings, Analysis and Modelling of cracks

- Can't be sure of identifying all cracks until paint has been removed by blast cleaning.
- Have to temporarily remove decorative cast iron casings
- When removed from N.E pedestal new cracks were found (April 2019), triggering closure of bridge to vehicular traffic.
- Crack growing in N.E pedestal in Aug 2020 triggered complete closure.
- Now need to do the clean and inspect the NW and SW pedestals -4 months duration.
- Also installing a temporary Temperature Control System to reduce risk of further damage caused by extreme temperatures.



## **Project Approach / Considerations**

- Health & Safety / Public Safety is everyone's top priority
- Practical Solutions
- Value for Money (current proposals have a benefit:cost ratio of 10:1)
- Funding availability
- Time



## **Work Carried Out To Date**

- Detailed Design for both Phase 1 Emergency Stabilisation and Phase 2 Permanent Stabilisation.
- Concept Design for Phase 3 Main Strengthening Works.
- Dismantling of both Eastern Pedestals decretive side casings with detailed investigations carried out to aid design.
- Detailed surveys and testing of bridge elements.
- Monitoring and modelling.
- Chain Temperature Control System Installation (part).
- Development and design of temporary foot & cycle bridge

## **Engineering Work Required**

- We know all pedestals have cracks but do not know the detailed extent of the cracks in the western pedestals.
- It will take four months to remove the casings and blast clean prior to investigation.
- This is costed at £2.3m with a Contractor ready to mobilise.



#### **Emergency Stabilisation by External Frame**

- Installing External frame allows the cracked pedestals to be by-passed providing temporary stabilisation to the bridge structure.
- This would allow us to install temporary bearings.
- Pedestrians will be able to use the bridge for a finite period whilst frames are in position.
- Prior to site works commencing the following must be completed:
  - Legal agreements
  - Tendering
  - Planning approvals
- Overall Duration 7 months
- Estimated Cost £13.9m
- Programme and costs subject to review & tender return







# (WP2) Phase 2 Permanent Stabilisation

#### **Permanent Stabilisation**

- Prior to site works commencing we would need to complete:
  - Planning approval
  - Legal Requirements
  - Tendering
  - Detailed design and approval
- Site works would include:
  - Installation of steel props and concrete to pedestals
  - Replacement of seized bearings on all 4 pedestals and both towers
  - Strengthening to both towers
- Overall Duration 21 months
- Cost £32m
- All subject to detailed design and cost and programme review



(WP3) Phase 3 Strengthening

#### Strengthening to previous vehicle loading

- Prior to works commencing on site we would need to complete:
  - Detailed Design and approvals
  - Planning permission
  - Legal Requirements
  - Procurement
- Site works would include:
  - Replacement of all 172 hangers and strengthening to hanger plates
  - Stiffening Girder replacement
  - Replacement of carriageway and footway decks
  - Chain Strengthening
  - Corrosion protection



- Overall Duration 30 months
- Estimated Cost £80m
- All subject to detailed design and cost and programme review



## **Summary - timeline**

- 66 working days to start of ferry contract service commencement targeted for spring.
- 4 months to understand condition of all pedestals possible controlled opening to pedestrians & cyclists
- 7 months emergency stabilisation open to pedestrians & cyclists for limited period
- 21 months permanent stabilisation open to pedestrians & cyclists
- 30 months strengthening open to previous traffic loading