



BC Hydro Bridge River Capital Projects  
Access & Accommodation Study

# Report Highlights

September 2024

**KGS**  
GROUP



# What is the study about?

**BC Hydro is investing in the Bridge River system.**


The Bridge River hydroelectricity system is made up of a number of facilities, including:

- Seton Powerhouse & Dam,
- Terzaghi Dam,
- 2L90 Transmission Line (Bridge River Transmission Project), and
- Bridge River 1 and 2 Powerhouses (located in Shalalth/Seton Portage).


The system also includes the La Joie Powerhouse and Dam. A separate study was commissioned due to the scale and scope of the La Joie Dam Improvement Project.

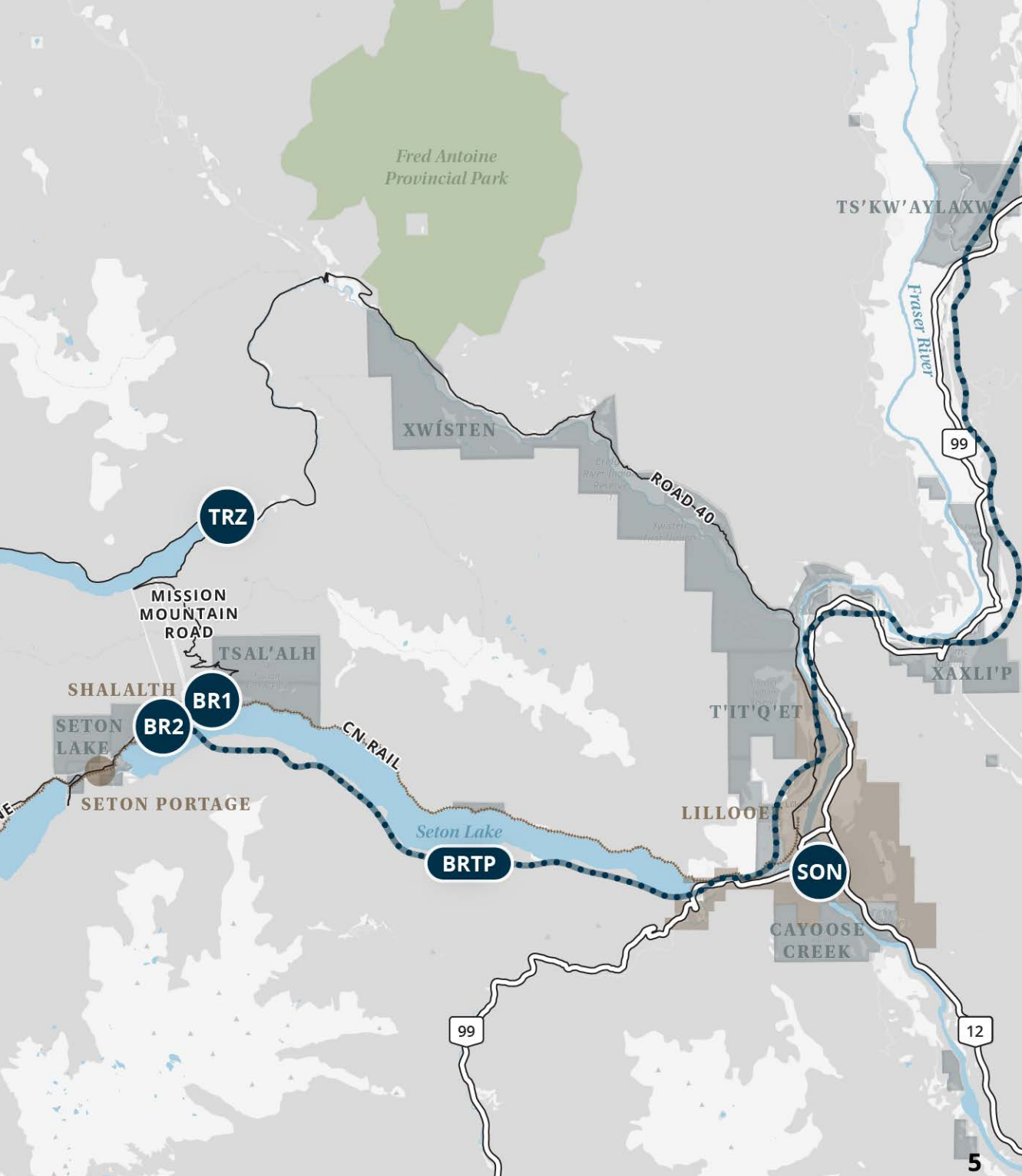
With infrastructure up to 70 years old, **BC Hydro is planning major upgrades to these facilities to address safety and reliability issues.** These projects will allow BC Hydro to continue to generate clean power for British Columbians, while working to mitigate operational impacts on the environment.

For more information about the projects, visit [bchydro.com/bridgeriver](https://bchydro.com/bridgeriver).

 **Did you know?**

The electricity generated on the Bridge River system accounts for about 6% of BC Hydro’s total generation. Together, these facilities can generate 556 MW of power, which will increase to 593 MW once these projects are complete.

 This document provides an overview of the Access and Accommodation Study. To view the full report, please go to [bchydro.com/bridgeriver](https://bchydro.com/bridgeriver).



## Legend

### Lands & Transportation

- First Nations Reserves
- Communities
- Provincial Parks
- Waterbodies
- Provincial Highway
- Regional Roadway
- Railway

### BC Hydro Project Areas

- TRZ Terzaghi Dam
- BR1 Bridge River Powerhouse 1
- BR2 Bridge River Powerhouse 2
- BRTP Bridge River Transmission Project
- SON Seton Powerhouse

## Why a study was needed

To do these upgrades, **BC Hydro will need to bring additional workers into the area** (see graph below) and they'll need to stay relatively close to their work sites. Although there are lodging options in the area, there is not enough room for all the workers. Plus, these places are already being used by tourists and temporary workers from other industries. More workers in the region will also increase demand on many services in the area.

At the same time, **these projects will increase traffic on the roads in the region, roads that can already prove challenging.** Public feedback showed concern for more vehicles on the roads and there are hazards such as rockfalls and avalanches. The recent wildfires only add more risk due to changes to the soil, plants and trees, waterways, and other natural features.

## What questions did the study need to answer?

The final report, called the Bridge River Access and Accommodation Study, aimed to answer the following questions:

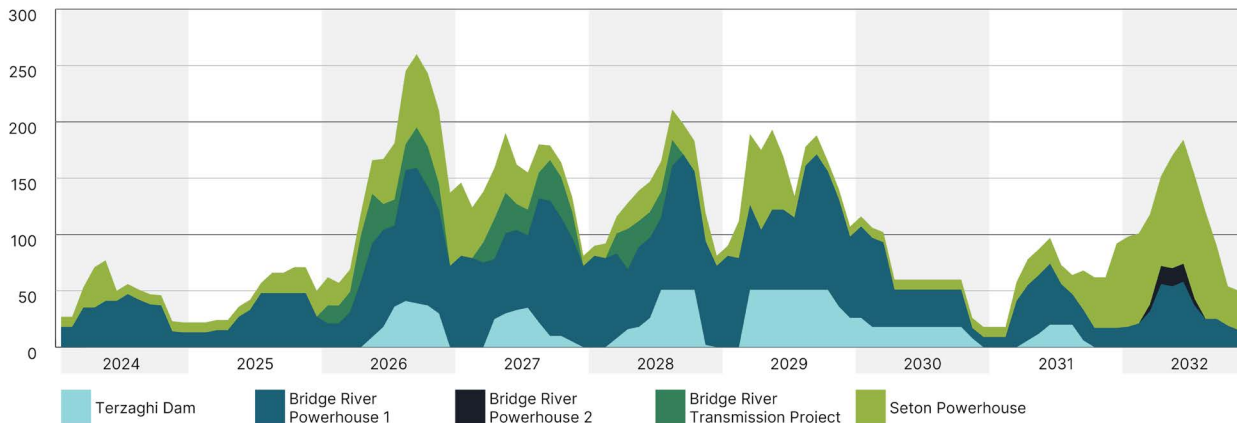
### Where will workers stay for each project? How will they travel?

We looked at all the different places where workers might stay, how they might be best spread out throughout the region, and how they would travel to their work sites. We also looked at safety, costs, and efficiency of the different options.

### What types of lodging will be used?

We looked at different lodging types in Lillooet. We looked at options such as existing hotels/motels, private rental properties, new hotels/motels, and work camps. As discussed in the results section, this exercise was not needed for smaller communities like Seton Portage with fewer lodging options.

**BRIDGE RIVER AREA WORKER FORECAST, 2024-2032**  
CUMULATIVE  
Data Date: February 2024



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The data may be outdated, or inaccurate, and should be used for presentational purposes only.

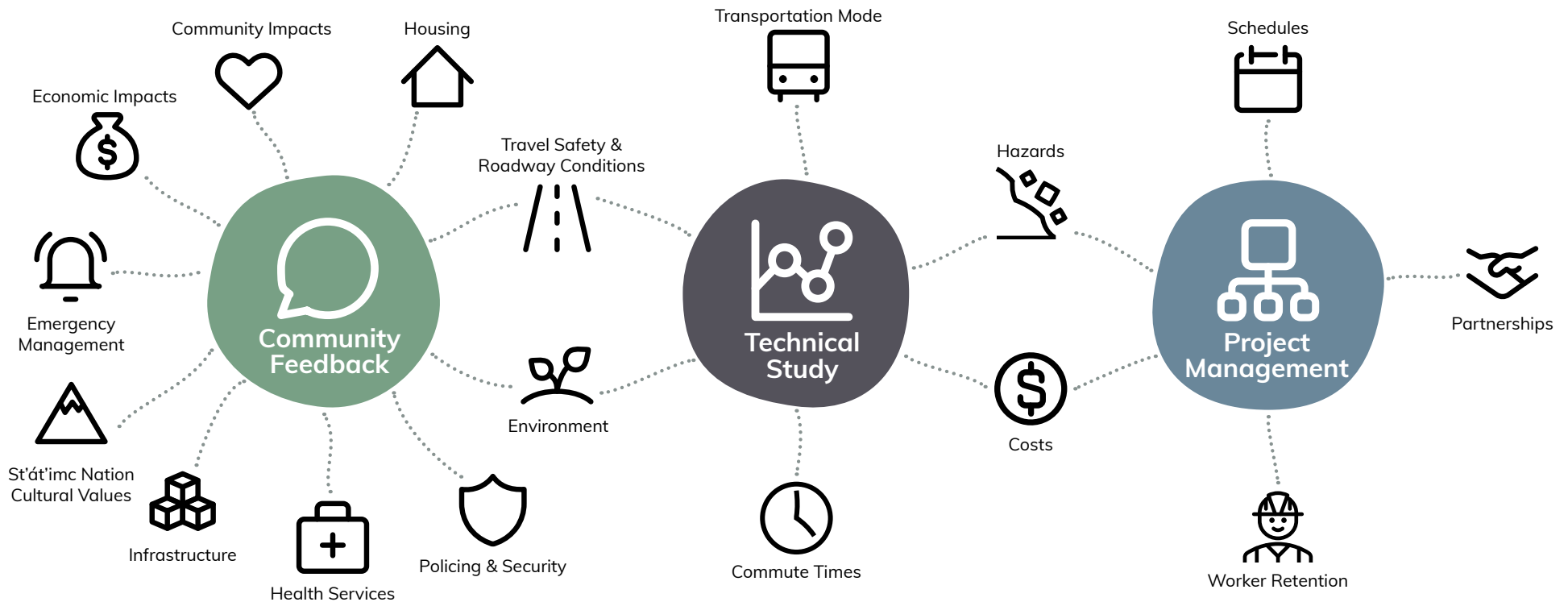
## What did the study look at?

The purpose of the study was to create a baseline of information regarding project needs, technical data, and community feedback to be used as we move further into project planning. The study also evaluated high level options that will be advanced for further investigation



To view the full report, please go to [bchydro.com/bridgeriver](https://bchydro.com/bridgeriver)

- Section 2 provides more detail on technical studies and assessments
- Section 3 provides more detail on St'át'imc, stakeholder, and public engagement
- Section 4 provides more detail on the decision-making process
- Section 5 provides a full list of the decision-making criteria and background information





# What options were considered?

## **BC Hydro looked at a total of 14 combinations of different lodging locations and types.**

Potential lodging locations included:

- Lillooet
- Seton Portage
- Terzaghi
- Gold Bridge

Potential lodging types included:

- Work camps
- Existing hotels/motels
- New hotels/motels
- Private rentals

Potential travel options included:

- Roadways
  - Road 40 (Lillooet to Terzaghi)
  - Mission Mountain Road
- Railways
  - CN Line (Lillooet to Seton Portage)
- Waterways
  - Boat (Lillooet to Seton Portage via Seton Lake)

Note that some options were rejected early in the evaluation process. For example, any option with a work camp near the Terzaghi Dam was rejected because the area is prone to hazards, making it unsafe for workers to stay there.

The rest of the options were each evaluated to see which option scored best.



To view the full report, please go to [bchydro.com/bridgeriver](https://bchydro.com/bridgeriver). Section 6 provides more detail on each potential accommodation and access option.



## Final results

The final results, outlined on the following pages, respond to the study's original questions:

**Where will workers stay for each project? How will they travel?**

**What types of lodging will be used?**

The results also include a series of **general recommendations** which address the ongoing operations and impacts of the projects.



To view the full report, please go to [bchydro.com/bridgeriver](https://bchydro.com/bridgeriver). Sections 7 and 8 discuss the results and recommendations.

Any of the results and recommendations originating from study will need further evaluation before they are implemented.



The costs listed in the full report were developed solely for the purpose of creating points of comparison between options and **further work is required to determine final scope and costs.**

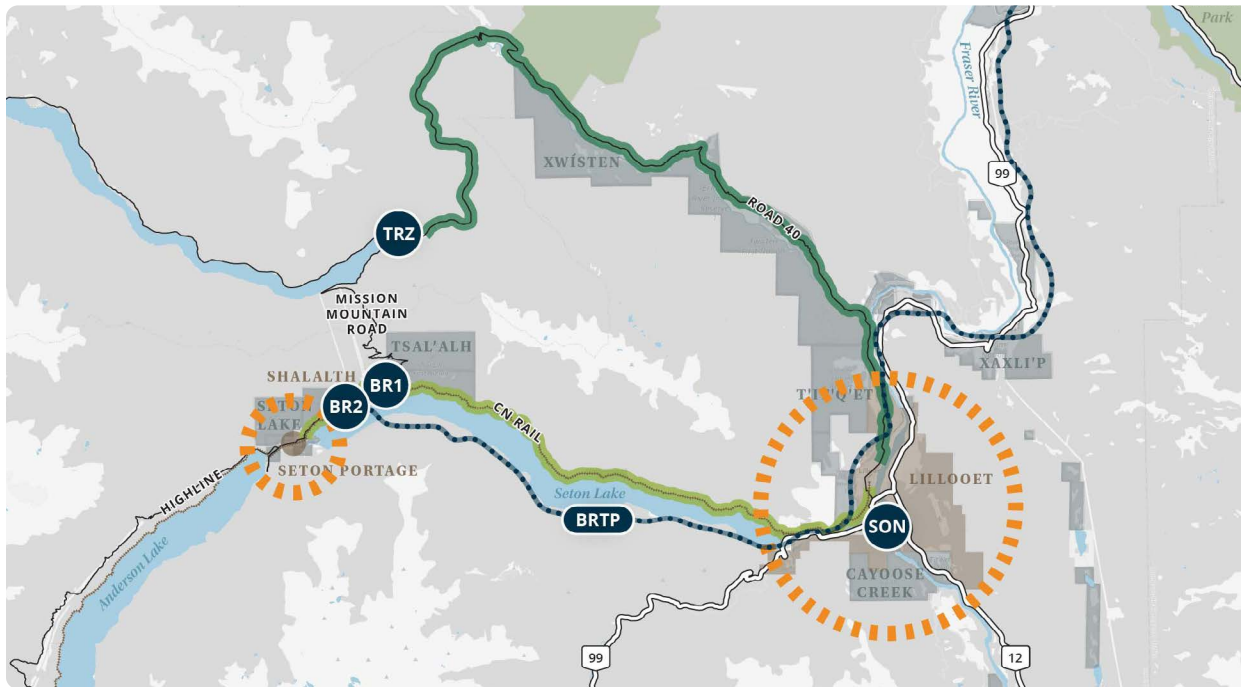
## Q: WHERE WILL WORKERS STAY? HOW WILL THEY TRAVEL?

### A: Seton Portage & Lillooet

The study found that options with workers staying in two communities scored higher than options where they all stay in the same community.

Overall, the option with **workers split between Seton Portage and Lillooet**, as shown on the map, scored highest of all options.

- BR1 and BR2 workers would stay in Seton Portage and take the train for their bi-weekly shift change.\*
- TRZ workers would stay in Lillooet and take shuttles along Road 40 for their daily commute.
- SON workers would stay in Lillooet
- BRTTP workers would stay in Lillooet and Seton Portage, as needed.



#### Benefits

Compared to the other options, some benefits of this option include:

- ✔ Lower travel time for workers
- ✔ Less project traffic within communities
- ✔ Less exposure to hazards overall
- ✔ Partnership opportunities with St'át'imc Nation in both Seton Portage and Lillooet
- ✔ More local spending in both Seton Portage and Lillooet
- ✔ No expected impact on private rental market

#### Trade-Offs

Compared to the other options, some trade-offs with this option include:

- ✘ More exposure to geohazards for Terzaghi workers
- ✘ Longer camp implementation timeline
- ✘ Larger camp footprint overall
- ✘ Higher lodging implementation and operations costs

\* BC Hydro's initial review of this recommendation shows this transportation option will require further study.



**Q: WHAT TYPES OF LODGING WILL BE USED?**

**A: Lillooet - Work Camp & Explore New Hotel**

**A: Seton Portage - Work Camp & Existing Hotels**

As the local hub of the Bridge River region, Lillooet has a wide range of potential lodging options, but the study found there is very low vacancy and there is community concern for adding pressure on access to housing. The study found two leading options for Lillooet:

- **build a work camp for all the workers, or**
- **build a work camp, as well as explore the use of a new hotel\***

\* Further study will be needed to determine the feasibility of using a new hotel. Benefits of a new hotel include increasing the number of available rooms in Lillooet in the long-term and potentially partnering with St’át’imc Nation. However, a new hotel could come with higher operations costs.

Seton Portage is a smaller community with limited lodging options. The existing hotels/motels depend on business from contractors to stay full. The study found the only viable option is to use **existing hotels/motels in Seton Portage and provide a work camp for overflow.** For that reason, no further evaluation of benefits and trade-offs of options was conducted.

**Benefits: Lillooet**

Compared to the other options, some benefits of these options include:

- ✔ Guaranteed beds available for project workers
- ✔ Avoids adding further pressure to housing access and affordability
- ✔ Easier incident management
- ✔ Easier to use shuttles
- ✔ Partnership opportunities with St’át’imc Nation
- ✔ Less vegetation removed
- ✔ More worker spending at Lillooet businesses

**Trade-Offs: Lillooet**

Compared to the other options, some trade-offs with these options include:

- ✘ Higher risk of worker isolation
- ✘ Higher operations cost



## General Recommendations

These recommendations stem from broad concerns, suggestions, and requirements we heard from St’át’imc Nation, local communities, and stakeholders. These will require further study.



### Travel safety:

Recommendations address safe driving behaviour and safe roadway conditions.

This looks like:

- Safe driving strategies
- Hazard mitigations and road safety improvements



**Community:** Recommendations address potential nuisances, as well as communication with local communities.

This looks like:

- A communication strategy
- Managing additional demand for local food, supplies, and services
- Worker Code of Conduct



### Environmental:

Recommendations address the health of the natural environment.

This looks like:

- Invasive Species Management Plan
- Rehabilitation plans
- Education campaigns



### Emergency management:

Recommendations address coordination and planning in the event of a natural disaster.

This looks like:

- An Emergency Management Plan
- Coordination with local search and rescue



**Healthcare:** Recommendations address worker health and the capacity of the healthcare system.

This looks like:

- On-site medical personnel
- Coordination with Interior Health



### Accommodation:

Recommendations address worker lodgings including work camps.

This looks like:

- Work camp aesthetics and amenities
- Planning for overflow lodgings



### Infrastructure:

Recommendations address impacts on municipal services and facilities.

This looks like:

- Coordination with Lillooet and SLRD on municipal services



**Geohazard:** Recommendations address worker safety related to hazards along travel routes.

This looks like:

- Engineering/construction works
- Limiting travel/exposure time



## Next steps

### From concept to feasibility: How the results translate in the real world

This was a big-picture study, helping BC Hydro understand what the potential options could be, comparing the projected benefits and trade-offs of each.

The next step is to get more specific. This might look like studying if a work camp could be built on a specific site, how a specific roadway could be made safer, or the feasibility of the recommended travel options.

### Future Work & Study

- **Continuing to consult with St'át'imc Nation.**
- **Continuing to engage and communicate** with local communities and stakeholders.
- **Looking for specific sites for work camps.** Sites would be studied to understand the benefits and trade-offs, with an emphasis on safety and any lasting impacts, before an individual site is chosen.
- **Looking at the feasibility of using a new hotel** to lodge workers in Lillooet.
- **Looking at the feasibility of using rail** to move workers versus existing roadways.
- **Getting detailed data about hazards and pavement conditions at key locations.** This will help us design road safety improvements and hazard mitigation measures, which in turn will help us get more precise costs.



To view the full report, please go to [bchydro.com/bridgeriver](https://bchydro.com/bridgeriver). Section 9 discusses recommended next steps in more detail.

# Thank you

BC Hydro and KGS would like to extend a thank you to everyone who participated in this study.

This includes St'át'imc Nation, local stakeholders, and the public.

Your knowledge and contributions helped us understand the region and your values, which helped shape this study and the resulting recommendations.

We appreciate your time and interest and look forward to continuing to work with you.