
To: Mayor Watters and Members of Council

Report: IS2024-26

Prepared By: Adam Dickieson, Engineering Services
Coordinator

Date: 10 Jun 2024

RE: Bridge & Transportation Network Study for Four Bridges in former Eramosa and West Garafraxa Township : Study Initiation

Recommendation:

THAT the Council of the Township of Centre Wellington receives for information Report No. IS2024-26: Bridge & Transportation Network Study for Four Bridges in former Eramosa and West Garafraxa Township : Study Initiation.

Report:

Introduction

There are three closed bridge crossings located in the former Township of Eramosa on Third Line, Fourth Line and Sixth Line: Bridges 7-E, 5-E, and 3-E, respectively. The fourth bridge in the Study Area, 2-WG is in the former municipality of West Garafraxa on the Third Line with a 15 tonne load restriction. This structure is also nearing the end of its service life. Refer to Attachment 1 : Study Area Map for location details.

The Township is initiating a Servicing Strategy Study that follows a system of public consultation in line with the Municipal Engineers Association's Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process (March 3, 2023, as amended), in order to identify and evaluate alternative solutions to address the deteriorated condition of these bridges. This Study will evaluate the role of these structures within the overall transportation network and connectivity in the local community and determine the most suitable alternative at each location.

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) Study Process

In April 2024, R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd., was retained by the Township through a Request for Proposal process to assist with completing a MCEA Study for the four bridges (2-WG, 3-E, 5-E, and 7-E).

The first steps in developing preferred alternatives for each of the four bridge sites is to gather relevant background information through Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports, and Stage 1 Archaeological studies to confirm the appropriate MCEA schedule

requirements. Pre-consultation with a number of stakeholder groups has also been initiated to ensure the appropriate level of engagement is met.

The Study will confirm and document the existing structural deficiencies of these four bridges and identify alternative solutions, including permanent closure, rehabilitation, or replacement for each of the four structures. The environmental impacts of each alternative will be evaluated and in consultation with the public, external agencies, and Indigenous Communities, a technically preferred alternative will be selected.

To establish a preferred alternative, each alternative is subjected to a rigorous evaluation to identify potential impacts and benefits. The evaluation and selection of a preferred bridge solution through the Environmental Assessment (EA) process is a complex undertaking that requires consideration of technical, natural environment, social, cultural, and financial criteria. As such the MCEA Study must be completed by a project team with diverse technical experience in: structural engineering, bridge hydraulics, aquatic and terrestrial biology, cultural heritage, and stakeholder consultation and communication.

Consultation Plan

A key component of the EA process is consultation with members of the public, external agencies, Indigenous Communities, and Township Council and Committees. The following consultation activities are being carried out as part of this Study:

- Mailouts of notices to members of the public, external agencies, and Indigenous Communities;
- Advertisement of notices in the Wellington Advertiser;
- Creation of a webpage on connectCW.ca providing project details, notices, technical resources, and updates;
- Public Information Centre meetings will be held to present the Study findings and obtain public input. Details will be advertised in the Wellington Advertiser and on connectCW.ca closer to the date under a separate notice; and,
- Reports to Township Heritage Committee and Committee of the Whole at key project stages to present updates and obtain input.

Next Steps

The project team will proceed with the detailed evaluation and consultation phase of the Study, with the goal of establishing a preliminary preferred alternative solution. Staff will prepare and present a report to Township Council to provide a summary of the detailed evaluation, consultation, and preliminary preferred alternative solution, with the goal of seeking Township Council endorsement of the preferred alternative solution.

Corporate Strategic Plan:

Provide innovative & sustainable governance

Financial Implications:

There are no forecasted impacts to existing budgets as a result of this report.

Consultation:

This report was prepared in consultation with the Manager of Engineering, Adam Gilmore, and the Managing Director of Infrastructure Services, Colin Baker

Attachments:

- [ATT 1 Bridge EA map - 2-WG 3-E 5-E 7-E](#)

Approved By:

Colin Baker, Managing Director of Infrastructure Services

Dan Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer

Four Bridges in former Eramosa and West Garafraxa Townships Environmental
Assessment Study Area Map

Bridges 2-WG, 3-E, 5-E and 7-WG

