



The Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound

## **Council Report and Recommendation**

### **Open Council Agenda June 18, 2024**

#### **Subject:**

Waubuno St Bridge - Fitness Trail

#### **TOMRMS File Number:**

#### **Spokesperson(s) Name, Title, Department**

Mike Kearns - Director of Public Works

#### **Purpose of Report:**

To recommend removal of the structure over Waubuno Road on the fitness trail and to slope the trail section to a level crossing to facilitate safe use of the fitness trail while ensuring that a viable future infrastructure corridor is available for future servicing of the North end of Town.

#### **Resolution 2024**

That Council accept the recommendation for removal of the Waubuno St fitness trail bridge and to create a safe and usable level crossing to ensure that a future infrastructure servicing corridor is available.

#### **Relationship to Strategic Plan:**

Core Service? Yes

New Service, Project or Program? No

Identify the Relationship to Council's Strategic Plan: Economic Growth - Continue to invest in Infrastructure Improvements

## **Background:**

The most recent OSIM (Ontario Structural Inspection Manual) inspection has revealed a number of deficiencies, and the expected current repair cost is \$350,000 plus engineering to correct the current deficiencies and to extend the life of the structure. Upon receipt of this report and cost estimate, staff engaged in further detailed discussions regarding the implications, both financial and operational, of undertaking the remedial work.

In 2009 a report was brought forward to Council recommending the removal of this structure as the remedial work required at the time was estimated to amount to \$120,000 while the removal and construction of a level crossing was estimated to amount to \$60,000 while a replacement was estimated to amount to \$400,000. The decision was made to complete the remedial work and the improvements recommended were completed in 2010.

A subsequent engineering inspection of the work completed was conducted in 2011 and identified that the recommended work had been completed and that there were some other items noted that should be addressed in subsequent inspections.

The most current inspection have revealed several deficiencies that are required to be addressed that are estimated to cost up to \$350,000. There are concerns that the buried wood components of the bridge structure may require further work once they are uncovered and available for inspection. Some of the wood components that were replaced in 2010 are now showing signs of deterioration and the need for replacement.

Staff have investigated the estimated cost of removal of the bridge and the installation of an adequate grade drop (approx. 5%) to create an at grade crossing of the fitness trail which will allow for similar future use of the trail in addition to allowing for the development of a future infrastructure corridor to allow for water and sewer infrastructure installations anticipated to be necessary for the future development of the north end of Town. There has been interest in developing vacant lands in the Northern section of Town and staff have been evaluating possible servicing options and the

location of a corridor along the fitness trail would result in viable servicing options while ensuring minimal disruption and the most economical route.

The Bridge is also a barrier to many emergency service and maintenance vehicles due to the low overhead clearance at 2.96m while the maximum vehicle height in Ontario is 4.15m

The bridge over Waubuno road serves as a barrier to the use of the fitness trail as an infrastructure corridor while the increasing cost of maintaining the structure that can be safely removed from service while causing minimal disruption while providing significant cost savings over the lifecycle of the bridge.

### **Advantages and/or Disadvantages of Staff Recommendation:**

- Removal provides a cost savings over rehabilitation.
- Requirement for bi-annual engineering inspections is removed.
- Removal ensures a viable infrastructure corridor exists to permit development of vacant lands in the North section of Town
- Minimal overall disruption in the use of the Fitness Trail
- Removes the barrier to emergency and service vehicles

### **Alternatives:**

- Rehabilitate the bridge and investigate further possible deficiencies

### **Cost/Financial Impact:**

\$ Removal Estimate \$150,000 to \$200,000

**Included in Current Budget: \$350,000**

**Director Approval MK ; Date: June 12, 2024**

**CAO Recommendation for Council Approval:**

Yes