

Notice of Project Screening

Bridge and Transportation Network Study for Bridges 2-WG, 3-E, 5-E, and 7-E

This notice was first issued on October 17, 2024

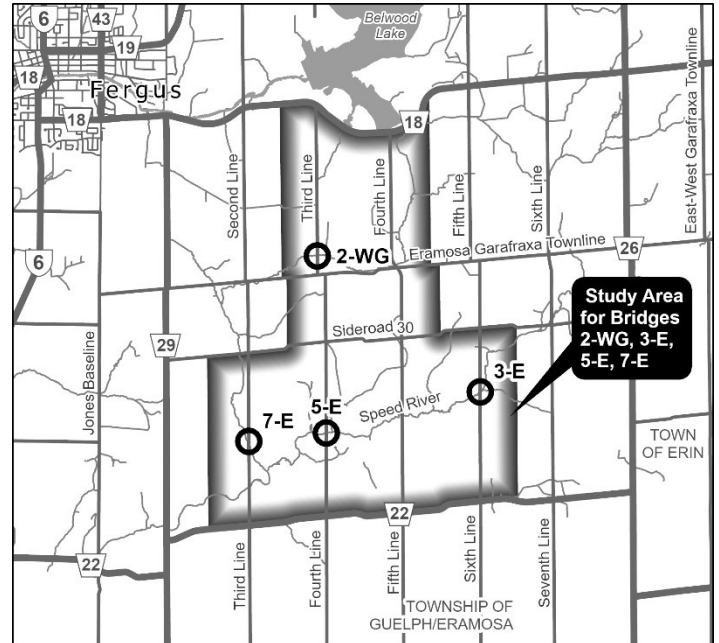
The Project

The Township of Centre Wellington initiated a Bridge and Transportation Network Study for Bridges 2-WG, 3-E, 5-E, and 7-E in May 2024. This study will evaluate the role of these structures within the overall transportation network and connectivity in the community and determine the most suitable alternative at each bridge location.

Three of the four bridges (3-E, 5-E, 7-E) are closed due to poor condition. The fourth bridge (2-WG) is open with load restrictions. The study will evaluate whether each bridge should be closed permanently, rehabilitated (with minor upgrades and modifications), or replaced.

The four bridges being investigated as part of the study are located in the southeast quadrant of the Township of Centre Wellington. The location of the bridges are as follows, as identified in the keymap herein:

- Bridge 2-WG is located on Third Line, approximately 330 m north of Eramosa-Garafraxa Townline
- Bridge 3-E is located on Sixth Line, approximately 1.9 km north of Wellington Road 22
- Bridge 5-E is located on Fourth Line, approximately 1.5 km north of Wellington Road 22
- Bridge 7-E is located on Third Line, approximately 1.5 km north of Wellington Road 22



A Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report has been undertaken to evaluate the sites for Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 569/22. Of the four bridges, only Bridge 3-E was found to exhibit Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. As such, Bridges 2-WG, 5-E and 7-E have been determined to be exempt from the Environmental Assessment Act based on project description 31a of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process in the case of replacement or rehabilitation being the preferred solution, or by project description 24a in the case of removal being the preferred solution.

A Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken to identify the heritage features associated with Bridge 3-E and recommend mitigation and conservation strategies that may be suitable for the project. The Township has committed to conserving the heritage features in accordance with the recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment, which includes completing architectural drawings of the existing bridge and depositing such drawings and the Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report and Heritage Impact Assessment reports in public repositories and, in the case of replacement, providing an interpretive plaque to identify the original bridge and designing the new structure with features that reflect the existing “rainbow arch” of the existing bridge. Based on these measures, Bridge 3-E is eligible for exemption from the Environmental Assessment Act through the Archaeological Screening Process, as identified in Project Description 31b of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document.

Archaeological Screening Process

The Township has undertaken the Archaeological Screening Process for Bridge 3-E in accordance Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c O.18. A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was completed on May 13, 2024 and determined that “the study areas were identified to exhibit low archaeological potential due to previous disturbance or poorly drained conditions”. The study areas are considered free of archeological concerns and no further archaeological assessment is recommended. As such, it has been determined that the project will have no negative impacts to archaeological resources and the requirements of the Archaeological Screening Process have been met. In consideration of this, the project is planned to proceed without further application of the Environmental Assessment Act.

Documentation of the Archaeological Screening Process (including the Archaeological Assessment) will be filed with project documentation and can be provided to interested parties upon request. The archaeological assessment has been submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism for review. No ground disturbance activities will be undertaken until a letter of approval has been received from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism indicating that all archaeological assessments have been met.

Continued Public Engagement

Although this study has been screened to be exempt from the Environmental Assessment Act, the Township recognizes that engagement with indigenous communities, agencies, stakeholders and the public is an integral component of the decision-making process for the future of these bridge structures. Studies related to the need for each bridge and the natural, social, economic and technical environments will continue outside of the formal Environmental Assessment Act and the Township intends to follow a consultation and documentation process similar to that of a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

For updates please visit the project specific webpage at: <https://www.connectcw.ca/bridge-transportation-network-study-four-bridges>

Project Contact Information

If you have questions or comments regarding the study or the archaeological screening process, please contact one of the Project Team members below: All comments or concerns related to the Archaeological Screening Process shall be submitted to the Project Team contacts below **no later than November 18, 2024**.

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Information will be collected in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the project team members listed above.