

June 19, 2020
Our File: 212326

Via Email: gfurtney@brockton.ca

Municipality of Brockton
100 Scott Street, Box 68
Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0

Attention: Mr. Gregory Furtney

Re: Riversdale Bridge Closure
Greenock Bridge Structure. No. 2
Municipality of Brockton

Dear Gregory,

It is our understanding that the Municipality of Brockton (Municipality) closed the Riversdale Bridge to all vehicle traffic on June 1, 2020 based on our recommendation letter dated May 7, 2020. The bridge structure was closed due to the poor condition of the steel cross beams supporting the deck and stringers. There were also concerns regarding the wide vertical cracks in the west abutment and the significant corrosion of the truss bearing connections. Based on our recent discussion, we understand that the local residents have voiced concerns regarding the bridge closure and have requested that further study be completed to determine if the bridge can be reopened. In response to the public's request, the Municipality has requested that GM BluePlan Engineering Limited (GMBP) revisit the option to reopen the bridge structure with a lower posted load limit, based on a detailed load evaluation.

In regard to the load evaluation, the current condition of the steel cross beams would not permit an accurate load evaluation to be completed without the beams first being repaired. The severe localized corrosion and section loss have caused large perforations to open up between the web and flanges of the beams, affecting the stiffness and overall stability of the steel members. After our recent bridge review, completed on April 24, 2020, we informed the Municipality that the current triple load posting (8, 13, 21 tonnes) was no longer appropriate and that the bridge should be closed to all vehicle traffic. It is our opinion that repairs would need to be completed to reinforce or replace the steel cross beams before a new load posting could be determined. Consideration would also have to be given for repairing the west abutment wall (large vertical cracks) and the truss bearing connections (severe corrosion).

Currently, the Municipality has retained GMBP to complete a Schedule "B" Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) on the bridge to determine the most suitable alternative for this river crossing (considerations include replacement, rehabilitation or permanent closure). This process is based on the requirements of Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act, as laid out in the guideline published by the Municipal Engineers Association. Consideration of the natural, social, economic and cultural environments in the decision-making process is required. Many of the background studies have been completed already. The process will include opportunities for public input, whereby the public will be invited to participate in at least one public meeting, and to provide written comments for consideration. It is expected that the MCEA will be completed early in 2021, which will allow the project to move forward to the detailed design and construction phase for the preferred alternative in 2021. Of course, the timeline for the MCEA is dependent on the nature of the issues that may arise. The timeline for implementation of the preferred solution will also be dependent on approvals, design and funding requirements.



Therefore, it is our recommendation that the decision regarding the possible repair and temporary reopening of the bridge be delayed until the MCEA has been finalized, so that the prescribed decision making process can be properly followed in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, and thank you for choosing GM BluePlan Engineering for your engineering needs.

Yours truly,

GM BLUEPLAN ENGINEERING LIMITED

Per:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JB' or similar, enclosed in a circular scribble.

for Jesse Borges, P.Eng.
JB/mr

cc: Municipality: John Strader - jstrader@brockton.ca
GMBP: Brent Willis, P.Eng. - brent.willis@gmblueplan.ca
GMBP: Drea Nelson, M.Sc. - drea.nelson@gmblueplan.ca
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