

## **APPENDIX M**

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – Bronte Creek Bridge**



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## Metrolinx Interim Heritage Committee – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

### **Property Name: Bronte Creek Bridge, Town of Oakville**

#### **Description of property:**

The Bronte Creek Bridge (PIN 24858-0098), a six-span Warren deck truss bridge with stone piers and modern steel girder addition at the north elevation, spans the Bronte Creek in the Town of Oakville. The bridge is part of the Lakeshore West rail corridor, built by the Great Western Railway (GWR) in 1855 and presently used by CN, VIA Rail, and Metrolinx. The current bridge superstructure was built by the GTR between 1900 and 1902. The northeast abutment is surrounded by grass and woodlot with a gravel service road accessing the structure from the south and terminating under the bridge. Light industrial properties are located to the north and southeast, while a hydro corridor runs parallel to the bridge on the north side. The southwest abutment is surrounded by grassland and woodlots as well as the hydro corridor to the northwest. The Suncor Oil Refinery, located at 3275 Rebecca Street, is located to the south while decommissioned remnant refinery infrastructure is located to the west of the bridge. Overall, the bridge is located within an urban watershed and the dominant feature is Bronte Creek. The creek appears to follow its natural alignment and is bordered by stone beaches and riparian ecology such as wild grasses.

It is recommended that Metrolinx/GO Transit proceed with identifying the Bronte Creek Bridge as a Metrolinx Heritage Property.

#### **Cultural Heritage Value:**

The Bronte Creek Bridge retains design value due to its Warren deck truss construction, held together with steel rivets, as well as stone piers and abutments. The design and materials utilized in the bridge provide a representative example of early twentieth century deck truss construction. The structure also retains historical value due to its association with the construction of the Great Western Railway corridor, the double tracking program of the late 1890s/early 1900s, and with Joseph Hobson, Chief Engineer of the Grand Trunk Railway, who is also associated with major rail infrastructure projects such as the St. Claire Tunnel, the International Bridge at Fort Erie, and the Victoria Bridge in Montreal.

**Heritage Attributes:**

Heritage attributes associated with the subject resource include, but are not limited to:

- Steel Warren deck truss construction with rivets used to secure steel members;
- Stone abutments and piers;

**Metrolinx Heritage Property Location:**



Figure showing the location of the Bronte Creek Bridge.