

APPENDIX M

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – Credit River Bridge



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Metrolinx Interim Heritage Committee – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Property Name: Credit River Bridge (Lakeshore West Rail Corridor), Mississauga

Description of property:

The Credit River Bridge is located at Mile 13.27 of the GO Transit Lakeshore West rail corridor, and is located in the historic village of Port Credit, in the City of Mississauga. The three-span railway bridge was built in 1903 to the designs and specifications of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and it was constructed by the Canadian Bridge Company Limited of Walkerville, Ontario. The bridge features a central inverted bowstring arch deck truss with steel beam approach spans on either side. It was widened to the north in 2008 to accommodate a third track. The bridge carries three tracks of rail traffic in an east and west direction across the Credit River, between Stavebank Road and Mississauga Road. While rail traffic travels in an east-west direction, it should be noted that at this segment of the rail corridor, the bridge and corridor is on a northeast-southwest alignment, and the Credit River flows northwest to southeast under the bridge. The Credit River Bridge is located within Metrolinx-owned parcel PIN 13456-0580.

It is recommended that Metrolinx/GO Transit proceed with identifying the Credit River Bridge as a Provincial Heritage Property of Provincial Significance.

Cultural Heritage Value:

The Credit River Bridge spans the Credit River, listed as a cultural heritage landscape by the City of Mississauga, in the village of Port Credit. The bridge is a landmark in Port Credit and it contributes significantly to the scenic character of the river and the community. Further, given the age of the bridge, proximity to Port Credit GO Station, and the role of the railway corridor in the community, this bridge retains significant physical, functional, visual and historical links to the Credit River and to Port Credit.

The Credit River Bridge is directly associated with the GTR's program to double track its route from Montreal to Sarnia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The current bridge was built to replace the original wooden railway bridge at this location. This was a significant improvement to railway infrastructure in southern Ontario that contributed to economic and population growth, particularly in the Greater Toronto Area.

The Credit River Bridge is an unusual and unique example of an inverted bowstring arch deck truss bridge and is thought to be one-of-a-kind in Ontario. The low curved chord underneath the bridge gives a sense of floating above the water as it extends over the Credit River, for an unsupported 210 ft (63 m). The unique design, combined with the span of the deck truss, demonstrates that the Credit River Bridge has a high degree of technical achievement. Distinctive features of this style of bridge construction include: combination of pin and riveted connections; heavy duty steel ten panel truss with diagonal members forming a Warren truss configuration; lower curved chord composed of lighter, less robust, steel; and massive eyebar bundles.

The Credit River Bridge was designed by Chief Engineer of the GTR, Joseph Hobson, and fabricated

by the Canadian Bridge Company Limited of Walkerville, in 1903. Given its noted craftsmanship, technical achievement, and unusual and unique design, the Credit River Bridge is considered to be a notable example of a bridge designed by Hobson, the GTR, and the Canadian Bridge Company Limited.

Heritage Attributes:

A list of heritage attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the Credit River Bridge include its:

- Steel and masonry bridge design and construction;
- Stone masonry substructure;
- Three-span scale and dimension, including the 210 ft (63 m) central deck truss span and two steel beam approach spans (30 ft or 9 m each); Unique and unusual steel deck truss centre span with an inverted bowstring arch shape; and
- Combination of pin and riveted connections.

Metrolinx Heritage Property Location:

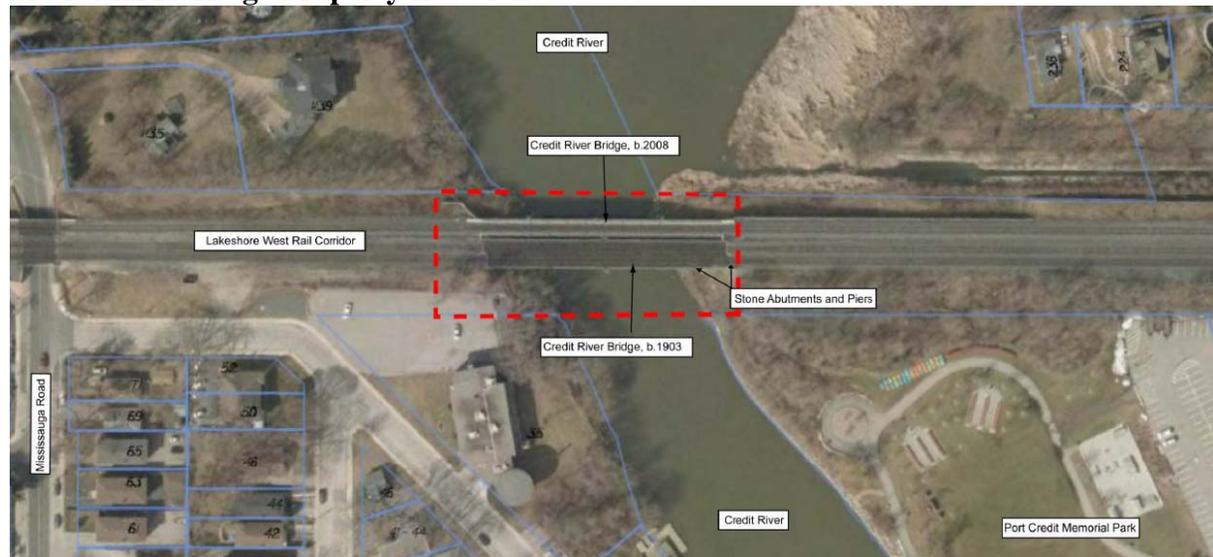


Figure showing the location of the Credit River Bridge.