

APPENDIX M

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – Humber River Bridge



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Metrolinx Interim Heritage Committee – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Property Name: Humber River Bridge (Lakeshore West Corridor), Toronto

Description of property:

The Humber River Bridge on the Lakeshore West Corridor is a railway bridge crossing the mouth of the Humber River, south of The Queensway and north of Lake Shore Boulevard and the Gardiner Expressway. Originally constructed in 1911 for the Grand Trunk Railway, the bridge incorporated abutments from a Great Western Railway bridge that previously occupied the site.

The Humber River Bridge on the Lakeshore West Corridor is a Provincial Heritage Property.

Cultural Heritage Value:

The Humber River CN Railway Bridge crosses the mouth of the Humber River, south of The Queensway and north of Lake Shore Boulevard and the Gardiner Expressway. Constructed in 1911 for the Grand Trunk Railway, this four-track railway bridge consists of steel plate girders spanning a concrete substructure. Two spans are carried by a central stone pier and abutments, which incorporate portions of the nineteenth century stone abutments that supported the Great Western Railway bridge that previously occupied the site.

The property holds physical value as a unique integration of 19th and early-20th century bridge construction methods and materials. Subsequent modifications to enable the bridge's ongoing use have not significantly detracted from its integrity and legibility as an amalgam of construction techniques from two distinct periods.

The property holds historical value as the bridge was constructed to carry a portion of the Grand Trunk Railway and it incorporates abutments from a previous Great Western Railway bridge. The Grand Trunk played an important role in Ontario's development history, and Toronto's railways connected it to new markets and contributed significantly to its growth and regional dominance.

In terms of contextual value, this bridge contributes to a landscape of bridges and underpasses along the mouth of the Humber River. As an early bridge across this portion of the Humber (integrating portions of an even earlier bridge), it remains important in supporting the character of this area, which is defined by connective infrastructure clustered on the Humber, traversing green space and industrial land. The bridge is physically, functionally, visually, and historically integrated with its surroundings, as it carries track across the Humber River. It is visually connected to Lake Shore Boulevard and The Queensway, and access to the underpass is linked to the Humber River Recreational Trail.

Heritage Attributes:

The heritage attributes essential to the cultural heritage value of the Humber River Bridge on Lakeshore West Corridor are:

- The stone abutments, dating to the mid-to-late nineteenth century, which were constructed as part of a previous bridge on the site, and ultimately incorporated into the subject property's design;
- The bridge's steel girder system and concrete substructure, demonstrating engineering techniques of the early-twentieth century;
- The bridge's central pier, which was considered an engineering accomplishment.

Metrolinx Heritage Property Location:



Humber River Bridge (Lakeshore West Corridor) outlined in red.