

APPENDIX M

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – Sixteen Mile Creek Bridge



A Division of METROLINX
Une Division de METROLINX

Metrolinx Interim Heritage Committee – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Property Name: Sixteen Mile Creek Bridge, Town of Oakville

Description of property:

The Sixteen Mile Creek Bridge (PIN 24816-0018), a five-span Warren deck truss bridge with stone piers and modern steel girder addition at the north elevation, spans Cross Avenue and the Sixteen Mile 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 in 1900 and 1902. The northeast abutment is located adjacent to high-rise residential properties and the Oakville GO Station while the southwest abutment is located adjacent to low-rise commercial estates and a residential subdivision. Green space and woodlots flanking the Sixteen Mile Creek generally characterize the land to the southeast and northwest of the bridge, with the exception of Cornwall Road approximately 138 metres to the southeast of the structure. Overall, the bridge is located within an urban watershed and the dominant feature is Sixteen Mile Creek. The creek appears to follow its natural alignment and is bordered by stone beaches with a noticeable absence of riparian ecology in this location.

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

Cultural Heritage Value:

The Sixteen Mile Creek Bridge retains design value due to its Warren deck truss construction, held together with steel rivets, as well as stone piers and abutments. According to existing plans, the stone piers were constructed in 1892 and encase portions of the original brick piers which date to 1855. 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. In addition, the bridge retains contextual value due to it being a defining built feature in the area, as well as its prominent location and accessibility, for which it is considered a local landmark.

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 built in 1892 and encasing portions of the original, 1855 brick piers;
- Intact alignment/right-of-way of the former Great Western Railway, now the Lakeshore West rail corridor;
- Physical, functional, and historical links to the character of the Sixteen Mile Creek.

Metrolinx Heritage Property Location:



Figure showing the location of the Sixteen Mile Creek Bridge.