

Report to Heritage Wilmot and Castle Kilbride Advisory Committee

Report No: HCAC 12-24

Prepared By: Cameron Miller, MA, MCIP, RPP
Senior Development Planner

Date: October 8, 2024

Subject: Oxford Waterloo Road Bridge 37/B

Recommendation:

That the following be provided to the Township Infrastructure Services Department as the Heritage Wilmot and Castle Kilbride Advisory Committee's comments on plans for Oxford Waterloo Road Bridge 37/B.

1. That the committee fully supports the plan to maintain the bridge for long term pedestrian and cycling use and is not opposed to either option 1 or 2.
2. That the committee prefers option 2 as it not only preserves the historic bridge, but makes it the focal point, the destination, at the eastern side of the multi-use trail.
3. That with either option, barricades be provided at the approach to either side of the bridge to ensure motorized vehicles, tractors etc. cannot access the bridge from off-road locations.
4. That the committee be provided an opportunity to comment on any plans to introduce railings/guards along the sides of the bridge for the safety of bridge users.

Comments:

At the September 10, 2024, HCAC meeting, Development Services staff provided a brief update on behalf of the Township's Infrastructure Services Dept. regarding proposed modifications to the area surrounding Oxford Waterloo Road Bridge 37/B. At that meeting, staff provided preliminary designs for two scenarios for the area surrounding the bridge which focus on converting the bridge for pedestrian and bicycle use. Options 1 & 2 are below, with sketches accompanying this report.

1. A multi-use trail beginning east of the existing field entrance to property 966654 Oxford Waterloo Road and ending on the east side of the bridge, terminating before the intersection of River Road. A traffic turnaround for road maintenance purposes will be established on the west side of the bridge, just west of the start of the proposed trail and east of the field entrance to the adjacent property.



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2. A multi-use trail beginning just east of the existing driveway access to property 966637 Oxford Waterloo Road continuing over the bridge and terminating before the intersection of River Road with a proposed turnaround for road maintenance purposes located just west of the beginning of the trail section on the west side of the bridge. This option would provide a lengthier multi-use trail in comparison to option 1.

It was determined at the September 10, 2024 meeting that the Bridge Subcommittee (Al Junker, Patty Clarke & Yvonne Zyma) be tasked with reviewing the materials and providing comment for endorsement from HCAC at the subsequent meeting.

Al Junker

“Thanks for the update. I'm very pleased to see that the intention is to retain the Oxford Waterloo bridge and make it part of a multi use trail. It is the last remaining truss bridge in the rural portion of the Township and as such in my opinion must be saved. In fact I would recommend that the bridge be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. I had always hoped that the Holland Mills bridge be retained as a pedestrian only bridge as part of a multi use trail but was shot down. To me option 2 makes the most sense as it creates a longer trail. Thinking further ahead perhaps the landowners along the Wilmot portion of the river could be approached about creating a nature preserve along the river in conjunction with the trail.”

Yvonne Zyma

“Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed options for a multi-use trail that incorporates the Oxford Waterloo truss bridge.

Because this proposal will provide long term benefits to residents and act as an attraction for visitors to the township, I strongly support the investment into Option 2.

This option not only preserves the historic bridge, but makes it the focal point, the destination, at the eastern side of the multi-use trail. Wilmot will be celebrating its heritage in a functional and creative way.”

Patty Clarke

In support of the comments provided by A. Junker and Y. Zyma.

Summary

Overall, the comments provided by the Bridge Subcommittee provide support for Option 2 and are reflected within the recommendations contained within this report. Staff suggest that two additional items form part of the committee's recommendations: that additional security against



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motorized vehicle access to the bridge and an opportunity for the committee to comment on any modifications to the bridge to enhance pedestrian safety. Should the committee endorse the recommendations, they will be forward to the Infrastructure Services department.



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LEGEND

PROPOSED TURNAROUND



PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL



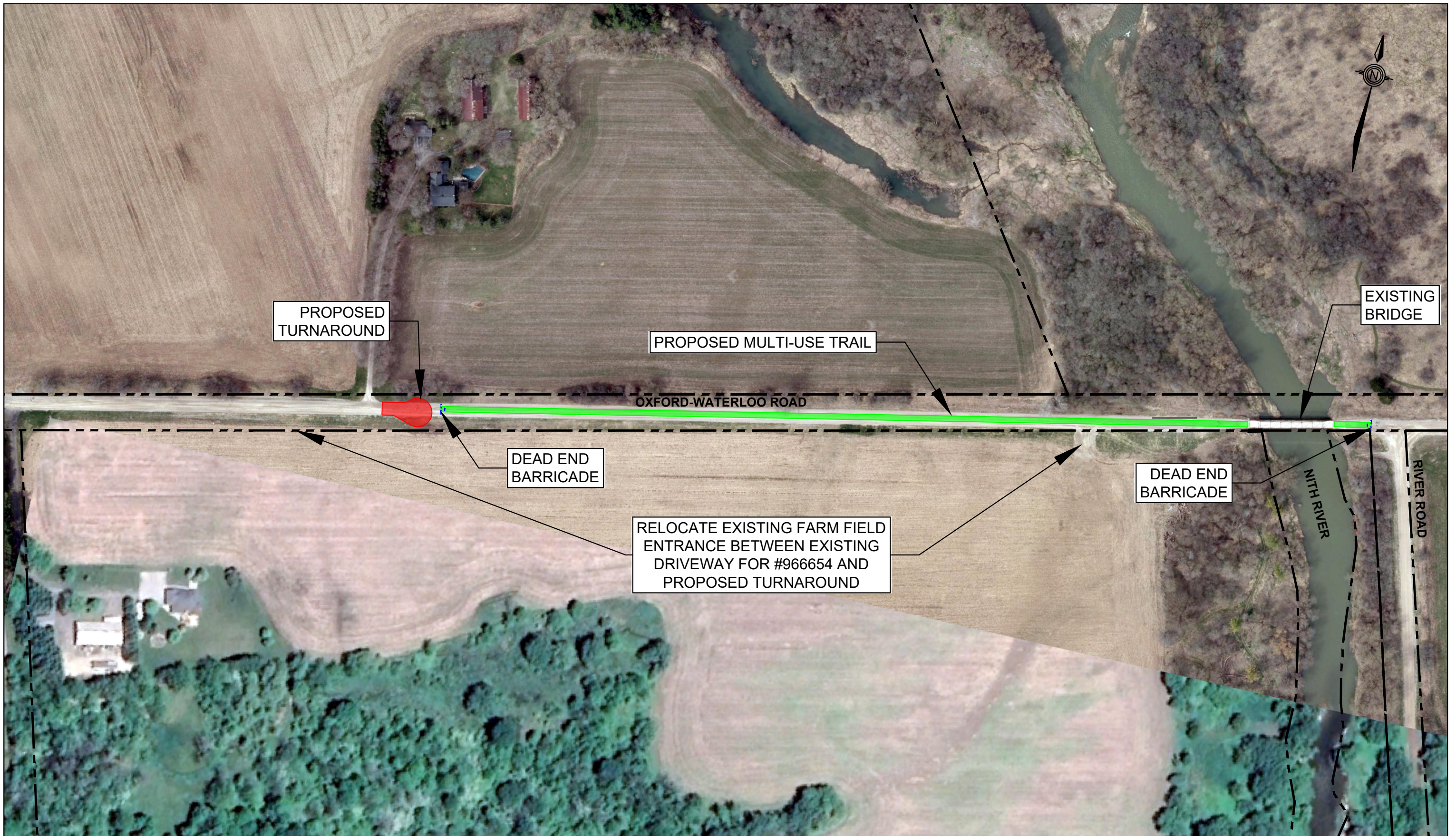
PROPOSED DEAD END BARRICADE



SCALE	HOR. 1:2000	VERT. N/A
DATE:	AUGUST, 2024	
DRAWN BY:	JS	
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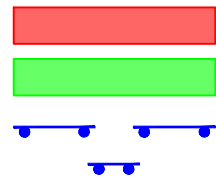
OXFORD-WATERLOO ROAD
TURNING CIRCLE
OPTION 1

Infrastructure Services



LEGEND

- PROPOSED TURNAROUND
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROPOSED DEAD END BARRICADE



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OXFORD-WATERLOO ROAD
TURNING CIRCLE
OPTION 2

Infrastructure Services