



**TOWN OF MINTO**

**DATE:** June 29, 2018

**REPORT TO:** Mayor Bridge and Members of Council

**FROM:** C.A.O. Clerk

**SUBJECT:** White's Junction Side Trail Bridge, Structure O

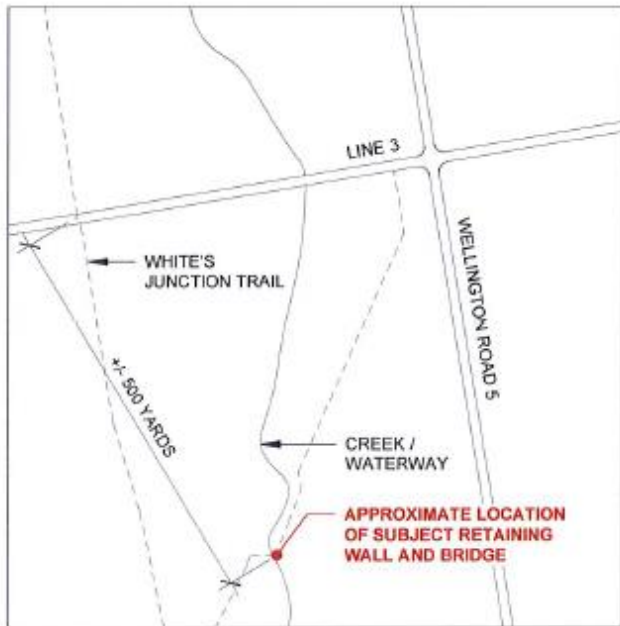
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**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

7.2 Promote and pursue in partnership with trail groups and landowners a trail link from Palmerston to Harriston to Clifford, and develop additional trails, paths and walking tours throughout each area to link parks, natural and historic areas.

**BACKGROUND:**

June 23, 2017 the Town experienced considerable damage from a heavy overnight rainstorm that caused considerable flooding. While much of the damage was in Harriston, there were also problems in Palmerston, Clifford and in Minto rural areas. Roads were washed out and culverts, farm drains and fields damaged. Many repairs have been completed, but Structure "O" along the White's Junction Trail shown in the maps below has not been addressed:



**KEY PLAN**  
SCALE: 1" = 625'-0"



The bridge has been unpassable since the flood and the section of side trail has been closed. This is a nice section of trail, particularly for users starting in Palmerston as it provides a nice walkable loop crossing through wooded areas and on the former rail line.

A preliminary estimate for repairs from Andrew Burgess of Burgess Engineering Inc was about \$100,000 including engineering. The insurance company had their own engineering investigate the bridge and prepare some preliminary design. Reeve's Construction who replaced the bridge on the trail damaged by fire have looked at the preliminary design suggest the cost could be more than \$100,000 when engineering and contract administration and construction supervision is included.

**COMMENTS:**

The attached pictures from the Town adjuster show the bridge during the flood and after the event. Before the flood the structural assessment prepared by Burgess Engineering every two years had identified the bridge deck as in poor condition, but the structure was generally fine although it is very old and there was evidence of some deterioration. Because this is flood related damage the Trails Committee questioned the need to replace the bridge with given a \$50,000 deductible.

A consideration since that time is that if it is not replaced the cost to remove the bridge and restore the area is \$20,000. If the bridge is remove the Town could enter into negotiation with the abutting owner to relocate the trail along the river back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Line in concert with decommissioning the section of rail trail from the river to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Line and County Road 6 intersection. The trail could be removed and the lands placed back in agricultural use, but the cost/benefit of decommissioning has not been assessed.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

If Council chooses to replace the bridge the \$50,000 deductible would not likely be payable until 2019. Various budgets have amounts to cover deductibles from various claims anticipated annually, but Council may choose to budget for capital work. If the bridge is replaced the Town and insurer share the cost at a rate of 50-50%.

If the bridge is not replaced the Town may be able to negotiate a settlement with the insurer to cost share on the bridge removal and decommissioning of the land.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receives the C.A.O. Clerk's June 29, 2018 report regarding White's Junction Side Trail Bridge, Structure O and directs staff to work with its insurer regarding replacement of the bridge.

Bill White C.A.O. Clerk