

August 16, 2021

Centre Wellington and Woolwich Councils

Dear Sirs/Madames:

Re: Middlebrook Bridge Closing and Demolition

Our family are active members of the Waterloo Region community, we cycle and hike and did so prior to the pandemic. We moved to this region approximately 12 years ago from Essex County and for many years have greatly enjoyed cycling/hiking around the region and have invited our friends to come and ride and hike in the region. This region has had much more to offer than where we previously lived. One of the most unique features of this region are the old bridges crossing the various rivers and specifically the Grand River, some of which have been closed to vehicle traffic for a number of years. Not only is the architecture of the bridges interesting but the environment created around the bridges is unique as cars are not the focus. The Middlebrook Bridge in particular is unique as the quiet road to the east of the bridge is very special to the cyclist.

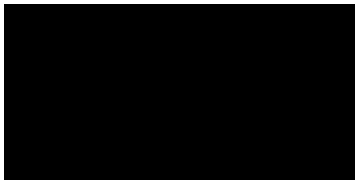
Cycling should be viewed by the region with an increasing focus in relation to tourist dollars and bridges and routes like these are a principal attraction.

There are similar bridges south of this region that have been maintained in order to support pedestrian traffic and I would suggest the same could be done here for less than the quoted \$700,000 demolition cost. These other retrofitted bridges have a metal base (probably the equivalent amount of material that was used to block the bridge) and metal guard rails on either side.

It would be a great loss to the region to tear down unique and historic structures in an era when outdoor activities and active living is becoming more popular across the general population and a progressive region, like ours, should consider this fact.

I would ask that you reconsider your thoughts of demolition as I think it will be greatly regretted for years to come.

Your truly,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

D [redacted] Dawdy

Waterloo, ON