

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Alex Smyth](#)  
**Subject:** [EXT] Middlebrook Bridge #9  
**Date:** August 19, 2021 11:15:22 AM

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I am emailing you to express concern over the announcement of potential removal of Weisenberg/Middlebrook bridge.

While the Middlebrook bridge has been blocked to vehicular traffic for years, it has been used for recreation. Prior to the blockade of the bridge earlier this year, it was rare to go by this bridge at any time of year (I frequented the bridge many times a month) and not find at least a few people enjoying fishing, hiking the Woolwich trail or simply family picnics particularly during the pandemic lockdowns as more people sought out this beautiful natural setting. Since the bridge has been barricaded, I have not ventured to that area where I would frequently stop by the Mennonite shops, or up into Elora where I would also spend money on food. I have recommended the bridge as a stop for visiting cyclists to the region as well. But not now.

Barricading the bridge has forced both recreational cyclists and non-recreational (ie Mennonite, non-Mennonite commuters) on to much busier roads that lack cycling infrastructure, namely HWY 85 and 8th line and the upper parts of Middlebrook Rd. which was recently repaved without any cycling infrastructure. Certainly there must be some additional funding for historic restoration and/or increased recreational use given the increase of usage due to Covid and other 'green' initiatives.

Please consider the moderate increase in funding to restore this area. Though likely not measurable by conventional means, the overall benefit to the health and well being of the region will outweigh the cost of restoration.

Thank you,  
T [REDACTED] Ferguson  
Waterloo Ontario