



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	February 27, 2020
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	TR-CW-06-20
<b>Title:</b>	Orchardville Bridge (Structure 900-272)
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation Services
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove, CAO
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW56-20; Endorsed by County Council March 12, 2020 per Resolution CC35-20;

## Recommendation

1. That TR-CW-06-20 be received and that Grey County accept the preferred solution to have Orchardville Bridge (Structure 900-272) removed with full recording and documentation of the heritage bridge; and
2. That Staff be directed to single source the bridge removal design to GM BluePlan.

## Executive Summary

Structure 900-272 (South Orchardville Bridge) is located on the border of Southgate and West Grey on Orchardville Sideroad. It is located approximately 72 metres from Highway 6. The structure has been closed since 2009 and Transportation Services is nearing completion of the municipal class environmental assessment (schedule B).

The recommended option is to remove the existing bridge with full recording and documentation of the heritage structure.

## Background and Discussion

In March 2009, Report TAPSR-23-09 recommended the closure of Structure 900-272 near Orchardville. At that time, pedestrian traffic was allowed on the bridge.

In 2016, Township of Southgate Staff informed Grey County that the Ministry of Transportation was divesting itself of a portion of Orchardville Sideroad. This property was to be transferred to the adjacent property owner. This created concern for Grey County as any future access to the Structure would only be from the north. To that end, Grey County was attempting to acquire an easement across the property for any future south access. Grey County GIS still shows the property in the possession of the Ministry of Transportation.

As the Structure is closed and in poor condition, and the agreement process was quite arduous, Transportation Services Staff decided that removal of the Structure was the most fiscally responsible option as:

1. It would remove a structure in poor condition from the inventory.
2. The structure, although closed, has required maintenance as closure barricades have been frequently moved. This represents a potential liability for the County as citizens have been ignoring the bridge closure signs.
3. Removal of the structure would mainly impact the adjacent property owner as they own lands on both sides of the structure.
4. Removal of the structure would save approximately \$200 per year in inspection costs.

The adjacent property owner expressed no interest in taking over the Structure due to potential future liabilities.

Report TAPS-20-09 closed the bridge to vehicular traffic in March 2009.

The Orchardville Bridge is one of two remaining bowstring arch structures in Grey County. These structures are no longer acceptable in the current bridge code (structural members can be impacted by accidents). The Structure has a deck length of 15.6 metres.

In April 2017, Transportation Services retained the services of GM BluePlan and Scarlett Janusas Archaeology Inc. to undertake environmental assessment work and complete a built heritage and cultural heritage assessment. The Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) determined that the Structure retains some cultural heritage value. The following nine conservation options were evaluated to ensure any heritage concerns are considered:

1. Retention of existing bridge and restoration of missing or deteriorated elements where physical or documentary evidence (e.g., photographs or drawings) can be used for their design;
2. Retention of existing bridge with no major modifications undertaken;

3. Retention of existing bridge with sympathetic modification;
4. Retention of existing bridge with sympathetically designed new structure in proximity;
5. Retention of existing bridge no longer in use for vehicular purposes but adapted for pedestrian walkways, cycle paths, scenic viewing etc.;
6. Relocation of bridge to appropriate new site for continued use or adaptive re-use;
7. Retention of bridge as heritage monument for viewing purposes only;
8. Replacement/removal of existing bridge with salvage elements/members of heritage bridge for incorporation into new structure for future conservation work or displays;
9. Replacement/removal of existing bridge with full recording and documentation of the heritage bridge.

Evaluation of the above noted criteria resulted in the following recommended solution:

*While Conservation Option 8, removal of the heritage bridge with salvage of elements for incorporation into new structure for future conservation work or displays could be considered, based on the condition of the concrete structure, this would not be technically or economically feasible. Further, the Grey County Historical Society did not indicate that the preservation of components (or elements) from the existing structure was of interest.*

*Therefore, Conservation Option 9, removal of the existing bridge with full recording and documentation of the heritage structure, is considered appropriate for this undertaking. As such, impacts to this heritage resource are expected.*

*It is also noted that Conservation Option 5, retention of the bridge for pedestrian walkways, cycle paths, scenic viewing etc. was evaluated within the framework of the Project File. Following a detailed review, and in consideration of the technical and economic implications, this alternative was not recommended.*

A site meeting was held Thursday, December 5, 2019. The majority of residents were opposed to the closing, but many realized that due to the cost and low traffic volume, a bridge removal was likely. Many felt it should be kept open for pedestrians.

Some concerns were voiced about school bus pickup. The removal of the structure would prevent the student from walking across the bridge north to the school bus pickup point near Southgate Road 14. Subsequent discussions with Kunkel indicated the school board would likely revise routes to pick up the student on Highway 6, which was a concern of the resident.

It is recommended that if Structure 900-272 is removed, that GM BluePlan continue to be retained as the consultant to complete the removal construction drawings.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

Grey County will complete the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process and obtain all relevant permits.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Grey County is currently proposing \$127,500 for costs relating to removal of the structure. These costs are included in the 2020 Transportation Services budget. Consultant design fees are included in this figure. Removing the structure avoids a costly repair or replacement and eliminates future liability.

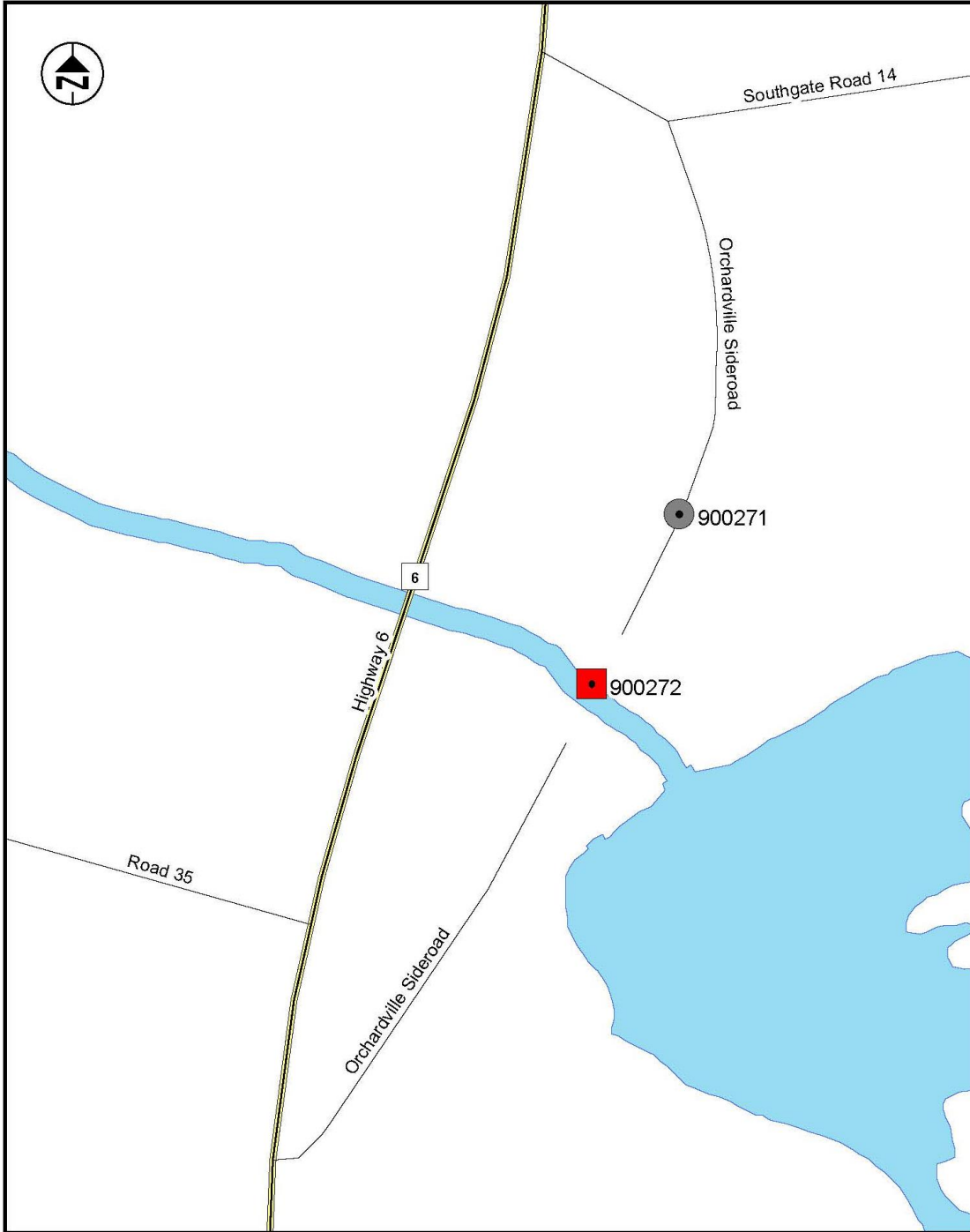
## Relevant Consultation

- Internal
- External  
Adjacent Property Owner, Kunkel Bus Lines Ltd., Township of Southgate, Municipality of West Grey

## Appendices and Attachments

Orchardville Bridge Location Map

[TAPSR-23-09 - South Orchardville Bridge Closure](#)



- STRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED
- STRUCTURE TO REMAIN

**SITE LOCATION MAP  
ORCHARDVILLE BRIDGE REMOVAL  
TR-CW-06-20**