

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: June 9, 2025

Subject: PWRDS-2025-14 Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan

Report from: Scott McLeod, Public Works Manager

and Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby approves Report PWRDS-2025-14 Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan;

AND endorses the preliminary preferred approach -Alternative 2 – which involves the closure of certain crossings while either replacing or repairing the remaining crossings. This option means that several bridges will be repaired as long as feasible after which they will eventually be closed to traffic and removed. The remaining crossings will be either repaired as required or replaced;

AND FURTHER directs staff to initiate a second public meeting during summer 2025 to present the findings of the Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan and gather community input on proposed bridge strategies;

AND FURTHER Council instructs staff to develop a comprehensive financial plan to support the phased implementation of the Master Plan. This plan shall include:

- Cost estimates for priority projects
- Identification of potential funding sources, including grants, reserves, and partnerships
- Integration into the long-term capital budget.

Background

On February 10, 2025, BM Ross presented the [2024 Bridge Inspection Report and Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan](#) for the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie. The study was initiated to assess the condition and long-term viability of 17 municipally owned bridge structures, many of which are over 70 years old and nearing the end of their service life.

The study followed the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process and included structural evaluations, traffic and usage analysis, heritage considerations and public and stakeholder engagement.

Analysis

Key Findings:

- Several bridges are in poor or critical condition and require urgent attention.
- Some structures have low traffic volumes and may be candidates for decommissioning or conversion to pedestrian use.
- The estimated cost to address all identified needs exceeds \$10 million, requiring a phased and financially sustainable approach.
- Public engagement is essential to ensure transparency and community input on proposed changes.

BM Ross recommended Alternative 2 as the most balanced and sustainable approach.

Alternative 2 – Close some crossing and either replace or repair the remaining crossings. This option means that several bridges will be repaired as long as feasible and then eventually closed to traffic and removed, while the remaining crossings will be either repaired as required or replaced.

Staff support the recommendation of BM Ross in principle for its ability to maintain essential transportation links while reducing long-term costs and liabilities.

Staff recommend holding a second public meeting in the summer of 2025 to present the findings of the Bridge Infrastructure Master Plan and gather community input on proposed bridge strategies.

Staff further recommend the development of a comprehensive financial plan to support phased implementation, including:

- Cost estimates for priority projects
- Identification of potential funding sources, including grants, reserves, and partnerships
- Integration into the long-term capital budget.

Next Steps:

- Schedule and promote public information sessions (in-person)
 - Collect and summarize public feedback
 - Present a financial strategy and implementation timeline to Council in Fall 2025.
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Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

The Bridge study expense is expected to be on budget for 2025.

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer