



# REPAIR / RESTRUCTURE & REOPEN CLEAVER ROAD BRIDGE

ANDREA BOWDEN on behalf of residents known as "Area of Highland Estates", supporting PETITION



# AGENDA

- ❑ - Introduction
- ❑ - Primary goal
- ❑ - Strategic Plan Priority
- ❑ - Impact and Mitigation
  - Social Impact
  - Environmental Impact
  - Economical Impact
- ❑ - Background
- ❑ - Analysis
- ❑ - Summary & Recommendation
- ❑ - References
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# INTRODUCTION

I am an advocate for safety throughout our Neighbourhood.

I believe that a Community working together towards a common goal of betterment for all, can inspire change and that a democratic society based on majority should still exist...

In 5 short days, I started a PETITION, approached neighbours and received overwhelming,

Majority support,

that the CLEAVER RD. BRIDGE was used as a direct route to Colborne St.W. by the MAJORITY of the residents and NEEDS to be repaired/restructured & reopened asap for vehicle traffic for our safety & accessibility requirements.

12/19/2023

REPAIR/RESTRUCTURE & REOPEN CLEAVER Road BRIDGE



# PRIMARY GOAL

**To have The County of Brant  
Re-post a request for bid/tender,  
to AWARD the bid,  
To Replace / Restructure  
and  
Reopen the  
CLEAVER ROAD  
BRIDGE**

**(no full design  
quote required,  
simply replicate  
MILL ST.**

**BRIDGE 2017,  
No plaques required,  
they only lasted 1 week)**





# BRANT COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY

**2. Effective Communication** Goal - Engage citizens in a dialogue that is transparent, multi-faceted, and mutually respectful. Context – The business and decisions of the municipality and its Council and staff impact citizens significantly. The municipal decision process can be complex and difficult for citizens to fully comprehend. Historically, the traditional media has interpreted the business of the municipality and circulated it for consumption by the general public. Today, a wide variety of forums for information dissemination exist and media platforms are changing rapidly. Positively, citizens have many more options to obtain information; negatively, there are greater opportunities for citizens to be misinformed and for factual information to be misinterpreted. An evolved and effective communication approach has never been more critical for Council and for its citizens

**4. Reliable Infrastructure** Goal - Optimize existing assets and develop new assets to support the current and future needs of the community. Context – Municipal assets and infrastructure form the backbone of our society and their condition and performance has far reaching consequences. The “infrastructure deficit” facing Ontario municipalities is well-known and has been compellingly outlined by municipal organizations including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. The municipal sector in Ontario has been compelled through evolving legislation to embrace a vigorous asset management approach that will help the public ensure that these assets are being appropriately managed. Given the vast scale and extent of the County’s infrastructure, a range of studies, plans, and processes must be undertaken to meet the County’s strategic priority of having “Reliable Infrastructure

# BRANT COUNTY'S STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY cont'd

**5. Healthy, Safe, and Engaged Citizens** Goal - Offer welcoming and inclusive programs, services, facilities, opportunities and events to enhance every resident's quality of life. Context – A key to maintaining a high quality of life for citizens is to provide access to a range of services and programs that promote healthy and active living. Recreation programs, parks, and natural spaces all provide residents with opportunities to be physically and socially active. Health care services and facilities provide people with treatments and strategies to stay healthy and live longer. Strong correlations exist between healthy and active residents and safer communities.

**6. Stable and Responsive Governance** Goal - Ensure the County has the financial, human, and physical resources required to deliver quality, reliable, accountable, and affordable public service. Context – The County, as an organization, is responsible for providing a wide range of services. Recruiting and retaining appropriate talent to deliver these services is increasingly challenging. The County enjoys improving revenues and made sound past decisions to generate new revenues, but a large slate of pending projects will challenge the County's fiscal resources. Citizens are increasingly demanding a more engaged and accessible Council



# IMPACTS & MITIGATION

## - SOCIAL IMPACTS

1

### REDUCED DIRECT ACCESS (EMS)

At least 2  
minutes longer  
IF

EMS TAKE  
ROBINSON RD.

2

### CONCERN

Structural  
damage was just  
realized ?

Arbitrary  
decision by  
County to CLOSE  
Bridge to  
Vehicles  
INDEFINITELY

3

### INCREASED TRAVEL TIME & DISTANCE

Equals increased  
cost for gas and  
wear & tear on  
vehicles

4

### SAFETY

Increased risk of  
accidents if using  
reroute of  
Robinson Rd.  
(Hwy access,  
cyclists,  
pedestrians)

5

### PREEXISTING TRAFFIC ROUTES AFFECTED

More noise,  
vibration, traffic  
using residential  
roads as a  
thoroughfare

# IMPACTS & MITIGATION

## - SOCIAL IMPACTS

### IMPACTS cont'd...

- Majority of residents that I spoke with directly and signed the Petition to replace and reopen CLEAVER Bridge expressed concerns that Cleaver Bridge, the route that our Community relies/relied on was closed to vehicle traffic suddenly and indefinitely
- Our Community now has reduced access for essential services and emergency response
- We are experiencing increased travel time, cost, and inconvenience for commuters, businesses, and their Customers as well as school buses
- Reduced opportunities for recreation (closed access to Apps' Mill Conservation from Cleaver Rd.)
- Pre-existing traffic routes have been affected, creating more traffic, noise, vibrations to other residential arteries (increased collision risk especially to cyclists and pedestrians,)

### MITIGATION:

- **The best mitigation measure is to engage & listen to the Community's specific needs and preferences, as Brant County States, "Public input is very important to help County Council and staff understand the needs and vision of the community."**
  - **in this case, to repair/restructure and reopen the CLEAVER Rd. BRIDGE (as per PETITION enclosed)**
- Providing adequate and timely information and consultation with us, the affected Community
- Proposing a ride along with me (Council can experience the route first hand to understand our Community's concerns)
- Safety measures for cyclists and walkers on Mill St. due to increased traffic and speed of traffic (speed bumps ?) and especially re-route - Robinson Rd. hill already narrow, winding, dangerous
- Reviewing the 2023 County of Brant Emergency Management program for situations in our Community such as fire that requires an urgent response and how the new route would affect us



# IMPACTS & MITIGATION

## - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1

### CONCERN

More noise, traffic  
and vibrations on  
alternate routes

2

### REROUTE EXCAVATION

May open / damage  
the natural spring  
that exists  
through  
Robinson Hill

3

### INCREASED TRAVEL TIME & DISTANCE

Equals increased  
vehicle emissions  
and  
Gas consumption

4

### ECOLOGICAL

New reroute  
infrastructure will  
Disrupt  
wildlife & animal  
habitats

# IMPACTS & MITIGATION

## - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Because the Majority of residents now have increased travel distance / travel time, in order to go around the Cleaver Rd. closure/bridge closure, more vehicle emissions will be released into the environment
- Because of the re-route, more thru traffic, noise, vibrations
- Excavation of the Robinson Rd. hill may open/damage the natural spring that exists there
- Ecological impacts: Building new infrastructure on Robinson Rd. would negatively affect the wildlife and their habitats that we are supposed to be conserving

### Mitigation:

- Investigate natural spring on Robinson Rd. hill and preserve it's water source
- Ensure the water quality is not threatened



# **IMPACTS & MITIGATION**

## **- ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

- Majority of residents will see a negative financial impact realized for fuel costs and wear & tear on their vehicles as they have to drive further and longer to get around Cleaver Rd. Bridge closure
- Customers of businesses may take their business elsewhere as they are being inconvenienced to go around a closed road Cleaver Rd. bridge which was the most direct, convenient, safest, scenic route before.

# BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

By choosing not to do regular maintenance, thus forcing the closure of the Cleaver Rd. Bridge, the County of Brant has taken away our direct route that is beneficial to the Majority of residents in our Neighbourhood.

Brant Operations direct quote, "I don't want to see bridges closed simply because we let them get to a state of disrepair."

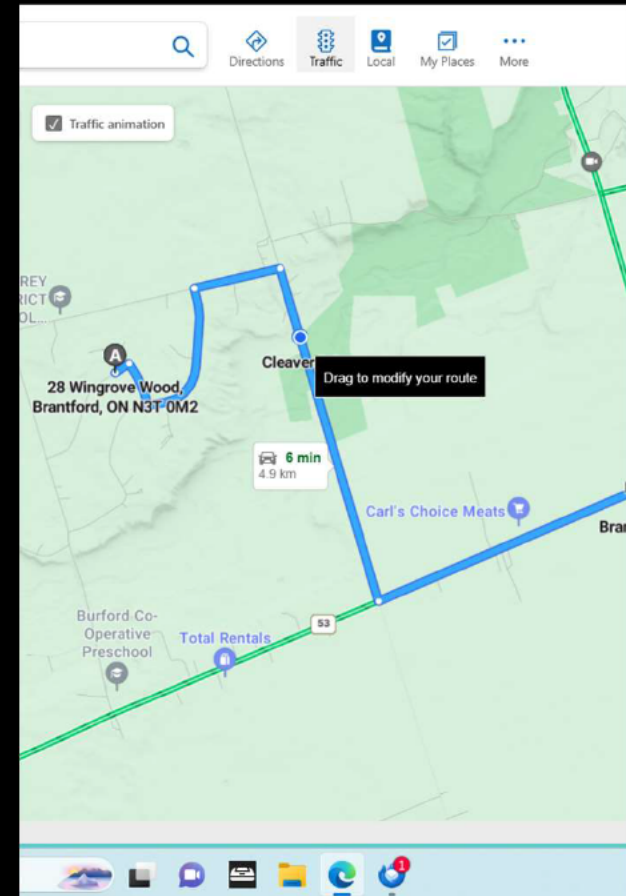
Ontario Government, "Structure Inspection Manual" states condition of bridges to be logged in Bridge Condition Index (BCI) and

- All bridges in Ontario are inspected every 2 years (detailed)
- General maintenance inspections at least twice a year

In 2016/2017 when the County inspected 2 bridges, Cleaver & Mill St and decided Mill St was in worse disrepair,

- What did the 2 year detailed inspection show then and every other year since then?
- What did the biannual inspection reports show ?
- 6 months Prior to emergency closing the Cleaver Bridge, what did the biannual report for Jan/Feb.2023 indicate ?

In 2022, The County must have been concerned about disrepair of the Cleaver Bridge as they issued a request for bid to "repair", however, it was never awarded. At that time, in 2022, what did the "reports" indicate ?





# TIMELINE – EST.1917 & NO REPAIRS ?



If Brant County's current solution is still rerouting traffic to Robinson Rd.

And

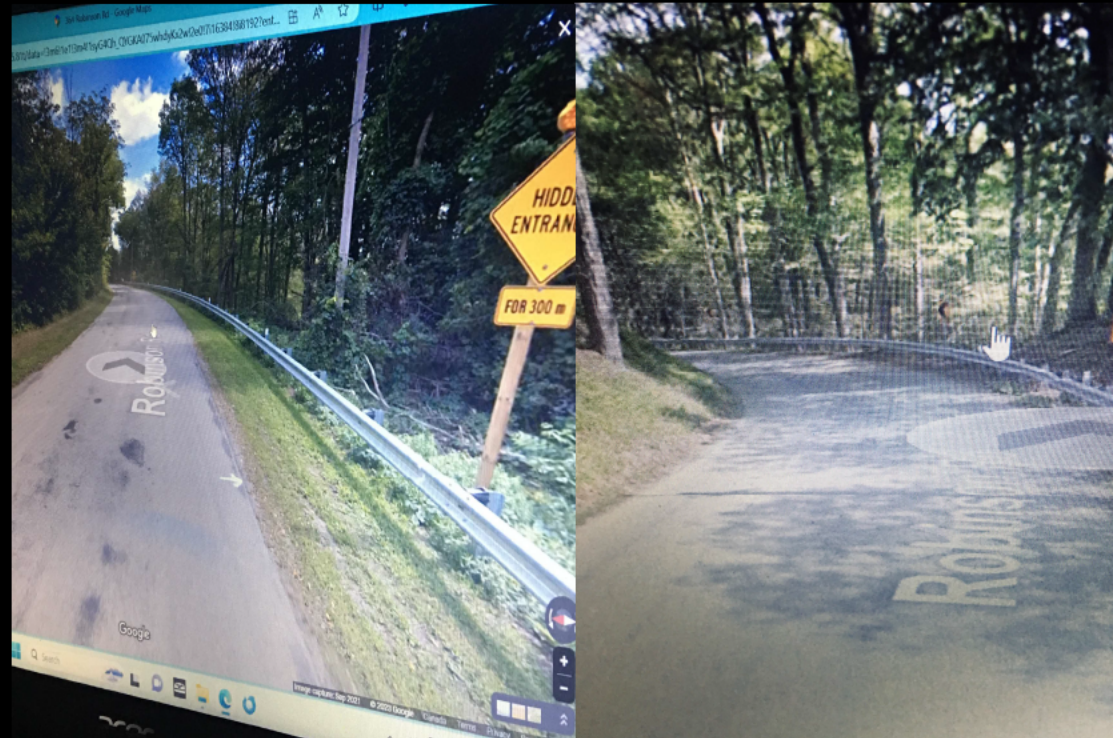
Investing in it's infrastructure,

Here are some of our questions:

- What is the plan for EMS, etc. when 2 accesses are closed simultaneously ?
  - Would the new plan cause possible appropriation of land on Robinson Road for widening ?
  - Does the new plan encompass building a new bridge on Robinson ?
  - How will you ensure our safety entering the Highway (Rest Acres), crossing the Highway ?
  - How will you ensure safety for pedestrians and cyclists trying to enter Apps' Mill ?
  - What is the County's plan for when the Cleaver bridge is no longer safe for pedestrians ?
    - Build a new pedestrian bridge ?
- Or Just Close every access in winter (currently) and summer to Apps' Mill trails from Cleaver Rd. ?

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## ANALYSIS CONT'D



ROBINSON ROAD (current reroute)



# SUMMARY

- Apply to Ontario Government for bridge funding
- Repost a rehabilitation bid OR Bid for NEW BRIDGE to be built like MILL ST (2017) as pictured
- WE HAVE A COMMUNITY NEED TO REOPEN THE CLEAVER ROAD BRIDGE FOR VEHICLES
- Take me up on my “ride along” to see our concerns for yourselves

12/19/2023



REPAIR/RESTRUCTURE & REOPEN CLEAVER Road BRIDGE

15



# CONSULTED:

- 117 of 160 Homeowners / businesses directly in “area of Highland Estates” were affected by closure of bridge & support repair & reopening petition
- 3 of 160 abstained support either way
- 2 of 160 do not support petition
- 8 of 160 have not replied as of yet
- 30 of 160 homeowners yet to be reached
- Ministry of Transportation (Ontario)
- Ontario Government “Connecting Links Program Funding (upto \$5 Million for Bridge projects
- S.Pluck - Brant Council & Corp. Services
- A.Dyjach – Brant Council & Corp. Services
- M.Eby – Brant Operations
- R.Walton – Brant Operations
- J.Murphy – Brant Operations
- K.Cicman – Brant Heritage /Strategic Initiatives Dept.
- B.Kortleve – Brant Planning
- B.Strauss – Brant Conservation
- S.Lawson’s office – GRCA
- R.Gasperetto – GRCA
- D.Watson – Brant Fire
- D.Vandertuin – OPP
- T.Graham – OPP
- K.Coudenys – OPP
- Dispatch Call Centre Badge # – OPP
- S.Kokanie - Brant Paramedic Services
- Supervisor – Central Ambulance Communications Centre
- Admin.- Brant Fire



A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge's iconic red-orange tower. The tower's intricate steel structure, including rivets and beams, is clearly visible. Several suspension cables fan out from the top of the tower towards the right side of the frame. The background is a clear, vibrant blue sky. On the left side of the image, there is a solid black vertical band. Overlaid on this black band is an orange rectangular box containing the text 'THANK YOU'. Below this box, the name 'ANDREA BOWDEN' is written in white capital letters.

THANK YOU

ANDREA BOWDEN



**Overwhelming SUPPORT & MAJORITY (OVER 100 of 160 homeowners, businesses) in “Area of Highland Estates” SUPPORTING THE PETITION to REHABILITATE and RE-OPEN the CLEAVER ROAD BRIDGE, Brant**

To the County of Brant Mayor, Ward 4 Councillors and County of Brant Council,

We, the undersigned residents within Brant County (Ward 4) also known as “Area of Highland Estates” urge you to **replace or rehabilitate and re-open the Cleaver Road Bridge to vehicle traffic** asap as this was a convenient, safe and direct route for more than half of the residents, farmers, **ambulance, fire and OPP** (confirmed, if dispatched from Colborne St. area) and customers of businesses who used the bridge daily.

**INSTEAD OF**

Brant County’s **CURRENT**, non-transparent plan of re-routing the traffic to Robinson Road hill & “fixing” the hill & infrastructure, or yet another undisclosed plan. Robinson Rd. hill borders Apps’ Mill Conservation and GRCA land and residential homes on the other side, new infrastructure would disrupt and harm the environment - wildlife and vegetation and natural springs that run winter and summer through this “hill”.

Brant County’s existing re-routing plan to Robinson Road hill causes significant problems and danger for the community. The County’s plan to lead traffic to use Robinson Road, is currently a narrow, winding and dangerous road for any vehicle and is certainly not suitable for heavy or large vehicles (Firetruck) **Robinson Road then forces traffic to enter or cross an extremely busy intersection of highway access (Hwy 24 South/Rest Acres Rd.)**

When every second matters, the re-route **INCREASES THE TRAVEL DISTANCE & TIME for EMERGENCY SERVICES**, as well as cost and time to many commuters and school buses, who previously relied on the direct route of Cleaver Rd. bridge.

Pre-existing traffic patterns have also been disrupted, making Mill Street and it’s residential arteries busier now to avoid Robinson Rd. hill.

We believe Repairing/replacing the Cleaver bridge would also save money and resources, as it would avoid the need for building new infrastructure along Robinson Road hill (currently no price comparison as there are no public bids or scope of work to refer to)

If Brant County is planning to “restructure” Robinson Rd,

- What is the plan for EMS, etc. when 2 accesses are closed simultaneously ?
- Would the new plan cause possible appropriation of land on Robinson Road for widening ?
- Does the new plan encompass building a new bridge on Robinson ?
- What is the County’s plan for when the Cleaver bridge is no longer safe for pedestrians ?
  - Build a new pedestrian bridge ?
  - Just Close every access in winter (currently) and summer to Apps’ Mill trails from Cleaver Rd. ?

Cleaver Bridge has been neglected and not regularly maintained for 100 years... If it is not already too late, repairing the bridge would demonstrate the county's commitment to protecting and enhancing it’s rural and historic charm. “The Cleaver Road Bridge is a historic concrete arch bridge that crosses Whitemans Creek. It was built by an unknown contractor in the early 20th century (serving the community since 1924(historicbridges.org) or 1917(Brant County 07/12/2022 bid for Cleaver Bridge Rehabilitation) If it is too late to “save” the Cleaver Bridge, then, rebuild it similar in style or exactly like the Mill St.Bridge which was replaced in 2017 because it also could not be “saved” due to neglect.

**Therefore, we respectfully request that you reconsider your current solution of investing in your re-routing plan on Robinson Road and allocate the necessary funds and resources for rebuilding or rehabilitating the Cleaver Road Bridge and re-opening it as soon as possible. We appreciate your attention and cooperation in this matter.**

Sincerely,

The concerned homeowners of Brant County “KNOWN AS AREA OF HIGHLAND ESTATES”

Petition in support of REPAIRING & RE-OPENING Cleaver Bridge rather than adding new infrastructure to Robinson Rd. or new undisclosed plan.

**I started this petition and have the full support of all the Homeowners, Businesses that have signed it, in favour of REOPENING the CLEAVER BRIDGE to vehicles**

**and**

**to speak to Council on OUR COMMUNITY'S behalf and to make OUR COMMUNITY accessible and safer for all of us again !**

**My contact details:**

**ANDREA BOWDEN**

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\_\_\_\_\_