
Haldimand County



Report ENG-11-2025 Emergency Purchase - Rotary Trail Bridge Replacement, Caledonia

For Consideration by Council in Committee on May 20, 2025

Objective:

To inform Council of an emergency purchase for the removal and replacement of a collapsed structure on the Rotary Riverside Trail in Caledonia.

Recommendations:

1. THAT Report ENG-11-2025 Emergency Purchase - Rotary Trail Bridge Replacement, Caledonia be received;
2. AND THAT the revised budget, as outlined in Report ENG-11-2025, be approved.

Prepared by: Kristopher R. Franklin, Manager, Engineering Services

Respectfully submitted: Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., General Manager, Engineering & Capital Works

Approved: Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

The Rotary Riverside Trail is an eight kilometre multi-use trail running between Seneca Park in Caledonia and Haldimand Road 54 in York. In February 2024 a bridge on the trail, located east of Sims Lock Road, experienced a catastrophic collapse. Due to the complete collapse of the structure into the creek, emergency removal was authorized by the Grand River Conservation Authority to prevent watercourse blockage and potential upstream flooding.

As the 2024 Tax Supported Capital Budget did not account for this replacement, the Emergency Purchase provision of Haldimand's Procurement Policy was enacted to procure and fund the bridge replacement. The removal of the structure was completed in March 2024 with the new bridge replacement started in November 2024 and the trail reopened in April 2025. The total project cost was \$263,000, necessitating a budget amendment.

Staff are providing this report to advise Council on this emergency purchase as per County policy.

Background:

The Rotary Riverside Trail is an eight kilometre long multi-use trail that runs between Seneca Park in Caledonia and Haldimand Road 54 in York. The trail is mostly off-road, with a 700 metre section of on-road trail through Simms Lock Road (see Attachment 1). The off-road sections are located on a mix of public and private property.

Engineering Services were made aware of a structure collapse on the trail in February 2024, approximately 260 metres east of the intersection of Simms Lock Road and Haldimand Road 54 (see Attachment 2). Haldimand staff contracted G. Douglas Vallee Ltd., who were already under contract for structural engineering services, to complete an evaluation of the collapsed structure and the trail was immediately closed. Notifications of the closure and service disruption were posted on the Haldimand County website and both the Ward 3 and Ward 4 Councillors were notified of the closure.

The bridge spans a creek that outlets to the Grand River approximately 20 metres downstream. Upon inspection, it was determined that the collapse was catastrophic and the structure could not be repaired.

Through discussions with the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), Haldimand staff were authorized to complete an emergency removal of the collapsed structure to limit any potential blocking of the watercourse and associated upstream flooding to private lands and Haldimand Road 54.

The 2024 Tax Supported Capital Budget did not include a budget for the replacement of the Rotary Riverside Trail structure. As a result, staff from Engineering Services, Finance and Legal and Support Services met and determined that the bridge replacement could be procured and funded through the Emergency Purchase provisions outlined in Section 6.4 of the Procurement Policy.

An initial budget of \$80,000 was established to allow for a direct purchase of services to remove the existing structure and complete the design and studies required to replace the structure. Staff also determined that the procurement of services to install the replacement structure would follow a normal competitive bid process and that the emergency purchase report to Council would be made once the trail was reopened and all costs were known.

Staff contracted Norton Construction to complete the emergency removal of the structure and in March 2024 the removal was completed and the site secured. G. Douglas Vallee Ltd. continued the work to complete the required studies, designs, and GRCA approvals for the replacement structure.

The replacement structure was tendered through the normal competitive bid process in September 2024, and the replacement structure was installed through the fall and winter. The final landscaping was completed and the trail reopened in April 2025. The total cost of the project was \$263,000 (including non-rebateable HST).

Analysis:

Per the Procurement Policy (No. 2023-02) an emergency repair must meet the following requirements:

6.4 Emergency Purchase

6.4.1 An Emergency Purchase may only be used when it is required to:

- .1 Prevent or alleviate serious delay;
- .2 Maintain essential County Services;
- .3 Maintain security or order;
- .4 Protect public property;
- .5 Protect human, animal, plant life, health or prevent/alleviate a threat to same;
- .6 Comply with official orders issued by upper levels of government; or
- .7 Comply with the Emergency Response Plan or respond to a State of Emergency.

6.4.3 The User Division shall submit the information outlined below to Council in accordance to [Article 8.0, Council Reporting](#), within three (3) months once the Emergency is declared over:

- .1 Purchase particulars;
- .2 Source of Funding; and
- .3 Conditions that constituted an Emergency Purchase.

Upon the initial inspection of the culvert and subsequent closure of the Rotary Riverside Trail, staff from Engineering Services, Finance and Legal and Support Services met and determined that the structure collapse and resulting trail closure met the following Emergency Purchase provisions outlined in Section 6.4.1 of the Procurement Policy:

6.4.1.2 Maintain essential County services - The location of the trail closure is approximately half way between Caledonia and York. The trail is frequently used and is the main off road route between Caledonia and York. Trail users would be diverted to Haldimand Road 54 and would be required to cross private property to return to the trail.

6.4.1.4 Protect public property - The failure related to the collapse of a culvert on the County owned portion of the trail.

6.4.1.4 Protect public property - The location and nature of the collapse blocked a watercourse close to the outlet to the Grand River. This had the potential for water to back up over Haldimand Road 54 and also cause flooding to upstream property and as such, the GRCA issued emergency approval to remove the structure.

6.4.1.5 Protect human, animal, plant life, health or prevent/alleviate a threat to same - Even though the trail was closed, there was potential for trail users to by-pass the barricades and of someone falling into the creek. Emergency access would also be difficult in this location.

Financial/Legal Implications:

The 2024 Tax Supported Capital Budget did not include a budget for the replacement of the Rotary Riverside Trail Structure. The following revisions to the 2025 Tax Supported Capital Budget are required to fund the project:

	2024 Emergency Approved Budget	Change	Proposed Revised Budget
<u>Capital Expenditures:</u>			
<u>Parks</u>			
212401 - CAL - Structure repair at Rotary Riverside trail - Construction	\$40,000	\$180,000	\$220,000
212401 - CAL - Structure repair at Rotary Riverside trail - Engineering	\$40,000	\$3,000	\$43,000
<u>Total Parks</u>	\$80,000	\$183,000	\$263,000
<u>Total Capital Expenditures</u>	\$80,000	\$183,000	\$263,000
<u>Financing:</u>			

<u>CRR - General</u>			
212401 - CAL - Structure repair at Rotary Riverside trail	\$80,000	\$183,000	\$263,000
<u>Total CRR - General:</u>	\$80,000	\$183,000	\$263,000
Total Financing	\$80,000	\$183,000	\$263,000

Stakeholder Impacts:

Not applicable.

Report Impacts:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

References:

1. [Policy No. 2023-02 Procurement Policy](#)

Attachments:

1. Culvert Location Map
2. Photos of Collapsed and New Structure