

Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail Proposed Pedestrian Bridge

Public meeting overview

October 16, 2025

About this project

The Region of Waterloo is in the design phase for a proposed pedestrian bridge over the Conestogo River in Wallenstein. The bridge will fill a missing link in the Guelph to Goderich (G2G) Rail Trail, creating a safer and more connected experience for users.

The G2G Rail Trail is a 132-kilometer multi-use trail spanning from Guelph to Goderich. The trail goes through the northern portion of the Region of Waterloo and is locally known as the Kissing Bridge Trailway.

For full project details view the display boards or visit www.engagewr.ca/G2G-trail-bridge

Why this project matters

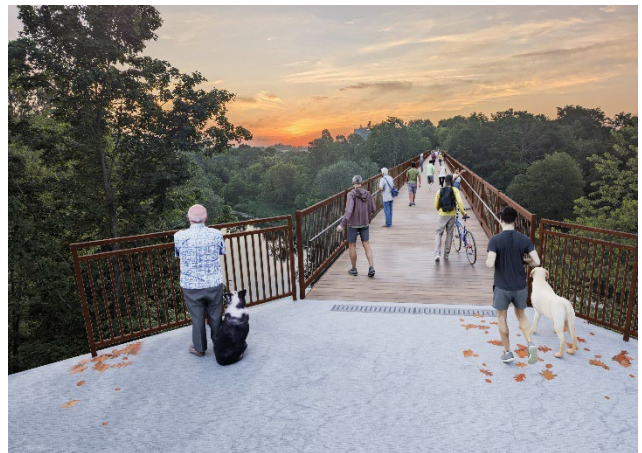
Currently, trail users must take a detour on Line 86 and Powell Road while travelling through Wallenstein. Both are busy rural roads not designed for pedestrians or cyclists to use safely.

The proposed bridge will reconnect the trail across the river, improving safety, accessibility, and overall user experience. It also supports active transportation, healthy outdoor recreation and local tourism.

Preferred bridge alternative

The project team reviewed several design alternatives as part of the environmental assessment process. The preferred design has been chosen based on environmental impact, cost, accessibility and historic value.

The proposed bridge design is a two-span bridge that uses the existing center pier.





Environmental and technical work

This project requires a Schedule B Environmental Assessment (EA) under Ontario’s environmental planning process. Key studies being completed as part of the EA:

- Environmental and ecological reviews
- Archaeological and heritage assessments
- Structural assessment of existing bridge piers
- Engagement with Indigenous communities

For details on the findings so far from these studies, visit the EngageWR project page.

Frequently asked questions

What is the Region’s plan for the road crossing near the bridge?

The current environmental assessment focuses on the new pedestrian bridge over the Conestogo River. We recognize that the bridge will likely lead to increased pedestrian traffic at the Line 86 crossing. As a result, improvements to this road crossing are being considered. Staff are reviewing alternative options to enhance safety and accessibility at this location.

In the meantime, we recommend using the existing crossing at Line 86 and Hergott Road, located to the north-west of the trail.

What is the Region’s plan for the missing trail connection on the Grand River in West Montrose?

The Region has plans to further study that trail location in the 2034-2035 timeframe. Installation of a structure at that location will be dependent on community interest and available funding.

Project timeline

Phase	Timing
Environmental assessment	2025
Council approval	Early 2026
Detailed design	January to February 2026
Construction tendering	March 2026 (dependent on funding)
Construction	Spring to Fall 2026 (dependent on funding)

We value your feedback

Take the survey online at www.engagewr.ca/G2G-trail-bridge or fill out a paper copy available at the public meeting.

The survey will be open until **November 6, 2025**.

Stay up to date by following the project page on EngageWR.

Questions?

Contact Jim Ellerman at JEllerman@regionofwaterloo.ca



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