

APPENDIX M

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – Islington Avenue Bridge



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Metrolinx Interim Heritage Committee – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Property Name: Islington Avenue Bridge, Toronto

Description of property:

The Islington Avenue Bridge is located at Mile 7.46 of the GO Transit Lakeshore West rail corridor, and is located in the historic village of Mimico, in the City of Toronto. The six-span road bridge was built in 1979 to AASHTO design specifications by J.A.B Lovell and Planmac Consultants Ltd, and it was constructed by Pitts Engineering and Construction Ltd. The bridge features a deck composed of prestressed precast concrete box girder segments, segmentally placed by a moveable truss gantry. The bridge carries four lanes of vehicular traffic in a south and north direction across the Willowbrook Maintenance Facility, between Kipling Avenue and Royal York Road. The Islington Avenue Bridge is located within City of Toronto-owned parcel PIN 07601-0262.

It is recommended that Metrolinx proceed with identifying Islington Avenue Bridge as a Provincial Heritage Property.

Cultural Heritage Value:

The Islington Avenue Bridge is the first example of a segmentally constructed concrete bridge in Ontario, and the first segmentally constructed concrete bridge to be constructed in a major urban setting anywhere in North America. The designer, J.A.B. Lovell, is considered to be the pioneer of segmental construction using precast, prestressed components in North America, and was the recipient of an award by the Prestressed Concrete Institute for his work on the Bear River Bridge in Digby, Nova Scotia. The innovative construction method and design, combined with the individual span lengths of 83 metres and an overall length of 491 metres, demonstrates that the Islington Avenue Bridge has a high degree of technical achievement. Distinctive features of this style of bridge construction include: incremental launching of precast segments; epoxy or mortar bonding and post-tensioning of segments; variable segment depth and profile to account for the advantage of producing longer spans with fewer piers.

Heritage Attributes:

The key attributes essential to the cultural heritage value or interest of Islington Avenue Bridge are:

- Seven span, 491 metre overall length; and
- Reinforced concrete piers and abutments.

Metrolinx Heritage Property Location:



Figure showing the location of Islington Avenue Bridge (red), Toronto.