

# **Old Railway Rideau River Pedestrian Bridge Environmental Assessment Public Information Session**

## **Backgrounder**

The Environmental Assessment (EA) study for the *Old Railway Rideau River Pedestrian Bridge* is in progress.

The bridge was built in 1898 and crosses the Rideau River just south of Highway 417. Ownership of the bridge was transferred to the Federal District Commission (now National Capital Commission) in the mid 1960's when Canadian Pacific abandoned this section of the railway line, which was later acquired by the City of Ottawa in the mid 1990's. In 1972, the bridge was re-purposed to carry only pedestrian and cycling traffic.

The bridge provides an important multi-use active transportation link between the National Capital Commission's (NCC) Rideau River Eastern Pathway and the City of Ottawa's (City) Rideau River Western Pathway / Rideau River Nature Trail. In 2018, a Detailed Condition Assessment was completed and concluded that the structure was in overall poor condition, with several components showing significant signs of deterioration.

### **Current Stage of the EA Process**

City of Ottawa staff are proceeding to the public consultation component of the process. That consultation will occur in November 2024. The next steps in the EA are to confirm the preferred alternative solution, prepare the project file report and issue the notice of completion. Staff plan to bring a report with the preferred solution to Built Heritage Sub-Committee and City Council in Q4 2024 - Q1 2025.

### **Heritage Status**

The Old Railway Rideau River Pedestrian Bridge is currently not designated heritage bridge under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. As part of this project, a heritage consultant undertook a cultural heritage evaluation and cultural heritage impact assessment. The results of the heritage analysis and the public information session will inform the EA recommendations.