September 22, 2020

**Arran Township Shed Bridge (Invermay), south of Tara**

The County of Bruce Transportation and Environmental Services Department (T&ES) follows an Asset Management Strategy (AMS) that ensures infrastructure is responsibly managed for the residents and explorers in Bruce County.

As part of this AMS, the T&ES Department monitors the condition of all infrastructure under the County’s ownership. This is done to maximize the asset value of the infrastructure and to ensure all roads, bridges, and culverts managed by the County are safe and fit for purpose.

In November 2019, County patrols identified bridge deck defects on the Arran Township Shed Bridge (Invermay), south of Tara. This prompted a bridge condition inspection by a structural engineer who recommended that the bridge was not able to withstand the weight of any available snow clearing equipment over the winter. Subject to the County of Bruce T&ES Committee approval, the bridge was closed for the winter season until April 15, 2020. Until a decision is made on how to deal with this failing structure, the T&ES Committee recently approved the Arran Township Shed Bridge be closed for the 2020-2021 winter season from November 12, 2020 until April 15, 2021.

It is expected and highly likely that this bridge will require closure each winter season until it is either:

* Permanently closed or demolished
* Converted to a pedestrian bridge (also for use by cyclists, horses, ATVs, etc.)
* Repaired/Rehabilitated
* Replaced

It is the opinion of the T & ES Department that the Arran Township Shed Bridge (Invermay), south of Tara should be considered for permanent closure. The bridge deck and superstructure are no longer in compliance with the bridge code and are in a state of deterioration due to the rotting timber deck and corrosion of the steel trusses and beams. Given that the detour north to Tara via Bruce Roads 10 and 17 is relatively short at approximately 1km, it is reasonable to consider bridge closure.

We would like to hear from you, the residents who will be directly impacted should this bridge be permanently closed. We would therefore ask that you complete the survey via the link below to tell us your thoughts and advise us on how you will be impacted should the County choose to permanently close this bridge.

<https://brucecounty.on.ca/arran-township-shed-bridge-invermay>

Questions or concerns regarding this notice can be directed to:

Jim Donohoe, Engineering Manager

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