



Infrastructure Services

Prepared for	Council-in-Committee	Report No.	IS-17-2023
Agenda Date	July 10, 2023	File No.	360507

Subject

CLOSURE OF THE TRAVELLED SECTION OF SHERKSTON ROAD (POINT ABINO ROAD NORTH TO MICHENER ROAD), BERTIE STREET (AT RIDGE ROAD NORTH - TRIANGLE), AND BOWEN ROAD (AT OTT ROAD - TRIANGLE)

Recommendations

THAT Council receives report IS-17-2023 regarding the closures of the travelled portions of Sherkston Road (Michener Road at Point Abino Road North Triangle), Bertie Street (at Ridge Road North - Triangle), and Bowen Road (at Ott Road - Triangle) for information purposes; and

THAT Council directs staff to prepare the necessary By-law and proceed with the road closures.

Relation to Council's 2011-2014 Corporate Strategic Plan

Priority: Sustainable Infrastructure for the Future

Goal: n/a

Initiative: n/a

List of Stakeholders

- 1) Mayor and Council of the Town of Fort Erie
- 2) Town of Fort Erie Ratepayers
- 3) Motoring Public

Prepared by:	Submitted by:	Approved by:
<i>Original signed:</i>	<i>Original signed:</i>	<i>Original signed:</i>
Jennifer Pennell-Ajie, BA EA to the Director, IS & Division Coordinator	Kelly Walsh, P.Eng Director, Infrastructure Services	Chris McQueen, MBA Chief Administrative Officer
Original Signed:		
George Stojanovic, P.Eng Manager, Roads and Fleet		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide information and seek Council approval to permanently close the travelled portions of three (3) different roads. Locations include: Sherkston Road (Michener Road at Point Abino Road North Triangle), Bertie Street (at Ridge Road North Triangle), and Bowen Road (at Ott Road Triangle).

Analysis

At the Traffic Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting held on June 22nd, 2022, the Committee deemed it appropriate to close each of these road sections, sighting safety concerns for the motoring public and maintenance issues in these areas. The roads form part of a triangle style road configuration (Appendices '1, 2 and 3' provide maps of each location for reference). One leg of each of these "triangles" will be closed to create better traffic flow, improve sightlines, reduce the potential for collisions and reduce costs for road maintenance and reconstruction in these areas.

The landowners that are directly affected by these closures have been consulted and are in support of these closures. It is the intention to make the lands surplus at all three (3) locations.

Michener Road/Skerkston Road/Point Abino Road North Triangle

This intersection has been the source of multiple complaints for at least 10 years through the TCC. Studies have been conducted in the past by both consultants and Town Staff for traffic speed, volume and collision data. Staff deem it appropriate to close the section of Skerkston Road between Michener Road and Point Abino Road North. The landowner at 4814 & 4831 Skerkston Road has endorsed the closure of the road provided he is given driveway access on the west side of 4831 Skerkston Road off Point Abino Road North.

There are a number of immediate issues for the consideration of the closure of this section of road:

1. The overhead flashing red/amber warning signal at the intersection of Sherkston Road and Michener Road will be in need of a life-cycle replacement in 2030. The capital cost is estimated at \$20,000 and has not been specifically budgeted for. Closure of the road section would eliminate the need to replace the signal.
2. The section of road proposed to be closed is in need of resurfacing but is lower down on the priority list and will not be undertaken for some time due to budget limitations. By closing it, the cost of resurfacing is eliminated, as well as the short- and longer-term maintenance costs. The immediate savings is estimated at \$30,000 in capital costs based on a hot mix resurfacing cover and \$2,000 in annual operating costs;
3. The intersections along Sherkston Road (both the Michener 'Y' and the Pt. Abino skewed cross) have deficient sightlines. Eliminating the 'Y' and converting the cross into a 'T' should eliminate the potential for collisions.

There are several one-time costs that should be considered if the recommendation to close the road section is accepted:

- Removal of the existing road and subgrade and topsoil-seeding of the area (\$5,000);
- Realignment of Sherkston Rd west of Pt. Abino Road to create better alignment (\$10,000);
- New, removed and relocated signage (remove flasher, new stop signs, temporary and permanent warning signs, \$1,000);
- New guiderail on Pt. Abino Road east side at Sherkston (\$5,000);
- Drainage modifications at Michener Road (\$2,000);
- Provision of new driveway for single resident (gravel access presently on Sherkston, to be relocated to Point Abino Road North, \$3,000).

If approved, the intersections will receive revised signage. Appendix '1' (figure 2a) shows the existing conditions, and Appendix '1' (figure 2b) represents the proposed realignment. A summary of the signage revisions are:

- The removal of the overhead flasher and removal of the east-bound stop on Michener at Sherkston;
- The removal of the north-south stop at Pt. Abino at Sherkston (the north-south stop 90 m southerly will remain);
- The addition of an east-bound stop and checker board warning sign on Sherkston at Pt. Abino (newly created 'T' intersection);
- The addition of guiderail on Pt. Abino Road.

There are two residential properties (with one owner for both) within the Sherkston/Michener/Pt. Abino triangle that is affected by the proposal:

- 4831 Sherkston has access off Sherkston to the property and has requested that a driveway entrance be installed off the east side of Point Abino Road to access the property and the entrance off Sherkston will be closed;

- 4814 Skerkston has access to the property through a gravel driveway off Michener Road and no further action is needed for this property access.

Following removal of the road and road base, the area will be top soiled and seeded.

Bertie Street at Ridge Road North – Triangle

This intersection has been the source of complaints to the TCC about the curve in the road making it hard for drivers to see oncoming traffic and confusion about road right of ways. A temporary road closure was put in place as a trial and the Town has received a few minor concerns from the motoring public initially when the section of roadway was closed but no concerns noted over the last year. The landowner at 1335 Ridge Road North has been informed and there are no objections from them. Access to their property will be maintained from Ridge Road North.

There are several one-time costs that should be considered if the recommendation to close the road section is accepted:

- Removal of the existing road and subgrade and topsoil-seeding of the area (\$5,000);
- Improvement to the Bertie-Ridge southwest corner (\$5,000);
- Cost savings include the immediate need to resurface 130 m of road (surface treatment \$3,000 in capital costs, plus \$1,000 in annual operating costs).

If approved, any existing signage traffic will be altered as necessary.

Bowen Road at Ott Road - Triangle

This intersection has been the source of complaints to the TCC about the section of road and the need to maintain it. When a motorist is on the section of Bowen Road going west that is proposed to be closed, it can be difficult to see oncoming traffic. A temporary road closure was put in place as a trial and we have not received any complaints or concerns from the motoring public. The landowner at 2181 Ott Road has been informed and is in support of the closure. The resident needs to maintain an access to the driveway along Bowen Road to access his septic tank for clean out.

There are several one-time costs that should be considered if the recommendation to close the road section is accepted:

- Removal of the existing road and subgrade and topsoil-seeding of the area (\$9,000);
- Cost savings include the immediate need to resurface 100 m of road (surface treatment \$2,000 in capital costs, plus \$1,000 in operating costs);

If approved, any existing signage traffic will be altered as necessary.

Financial/Staffing and AODA Implications

Table 1: Estimated Costs for Removal

Road Section	Estimated Costs
Sherkston Road (Michener Road at Point Abino Road North Triangle)	\$26,000
Bertie Street (at Ridge Road North - Triangle)	\$10,000
Bowen Road (at Ott Road - Triangle)	\$9,000
Total	\$45,000

Table 2: Estimated Savings

Road Section	Estimated Capital (one time) Savings	Estimated Annual Operating Savings
Sherkston Road (Michener Road at Point Abino Road North Triangle)	\$50,000	\$2,000
Bertie Street (at Ridge Road North - Triangle)	\$3,000	\$1,000
Bowen Road (at Ott Road - Triangle)	\$2,000	\$1,000
Total	\$55,000	\$4,000

The initial cost of the closures for these sections is an estimated \$45,000 in immediate and anticipated capital and operational expenditures has been accounted for in the 2023 Operating Budget.

Policies Affecting Proposal

By-law No. 124-2018 adopted Council's 2018-2022 Corporate Strategic Plan. Under the Strategic Priority 2: Sustainable Infrastructure for the Future. It is the objective to maintain and invest in sustainable infrastructure that serves the entire community and builds a strong, vibrant and attractive community.

By-law 2000-89 Being A By-Law to Regulate Traffic and Parking on The Highways of The Town of Fort Erie.

The Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8 as amended.

Comments from Relevant Departments/Community and Corporate Partners

All relevant departments were consulted regarding the closure of these roads.

Communicating Results

Once passed, notices will be provided to abutting landowners regarding the closures. The intention to make the lands surplus will be dealt with at a future Land Committee meeting once construction has been completed and improvements in road operations have been confirmed.

Once the by-law is passed, Town staff will erect signage indicating the eventual closure on-site for the motoring public.

Alternatives

Council may reject the recommendation, and keep these travelled sections of all three (3) road sections.

Conclusion

It is recommended that Council accept the recommendation to close the sections of Sherkston Road from Pt. Abino Road North to Michener Road, the Bertie Road section and the Bowen Road section. Overall there is a net savings in one-time capital costs of \$10,000 and long-term operational savings of \$4,000 each year, will be realized in terms of reduced maintenance, snow removal, and reduced accident potential.

Attachments

Appendix '1' – Point Abino/Sherkston/Michener Triangle - Figure 1 – General Plan/Aerial Photo of Vicinity, Figure 2a – Existing Signage, Figure 2b – Proposed Signage

Appendix '2' – Bertie Street at Ridge Road North – Triangle – Aerial Photo

Appendix '3' – Bowen Road at Ott Road – Triangle – Aerial Photo

Figure 1

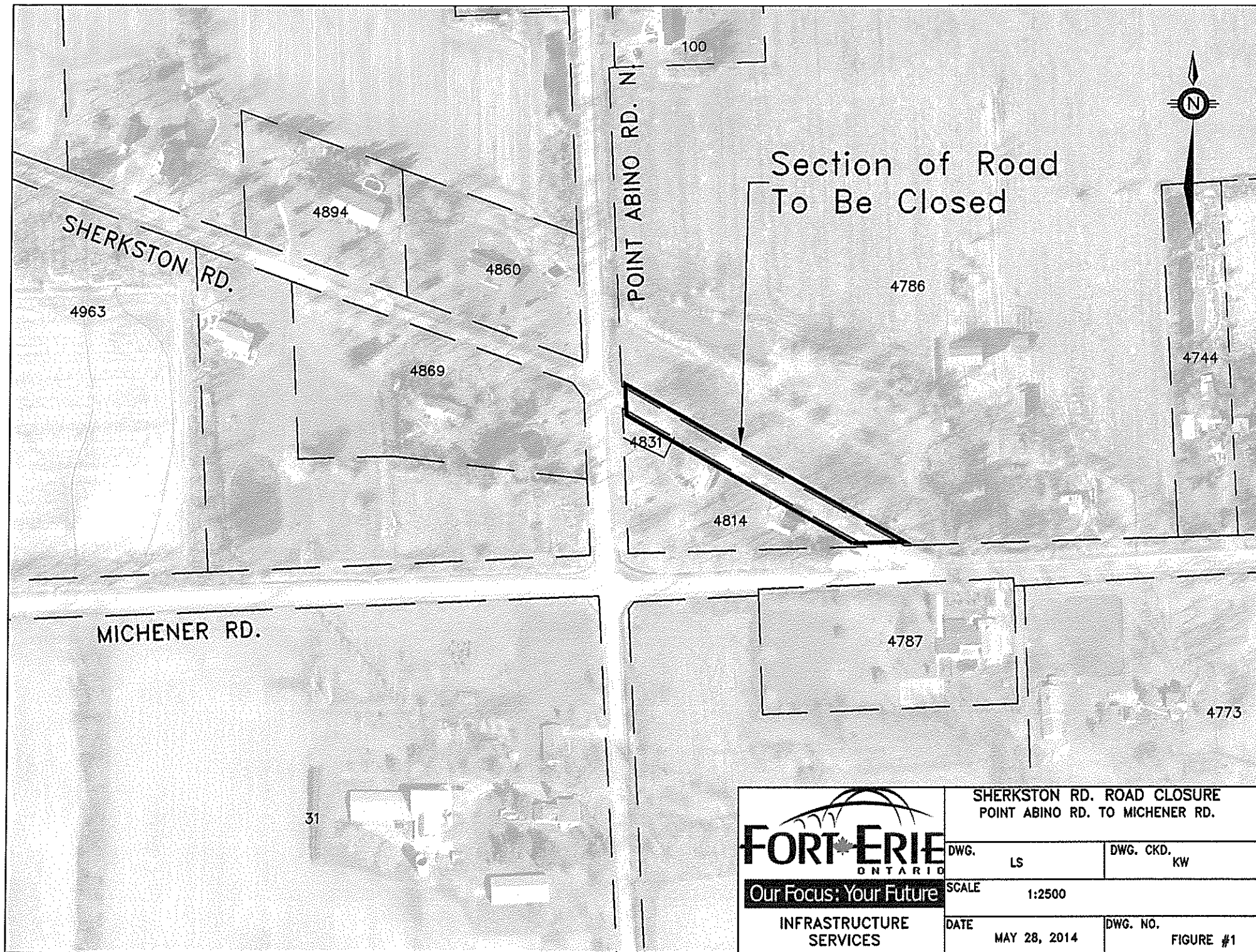
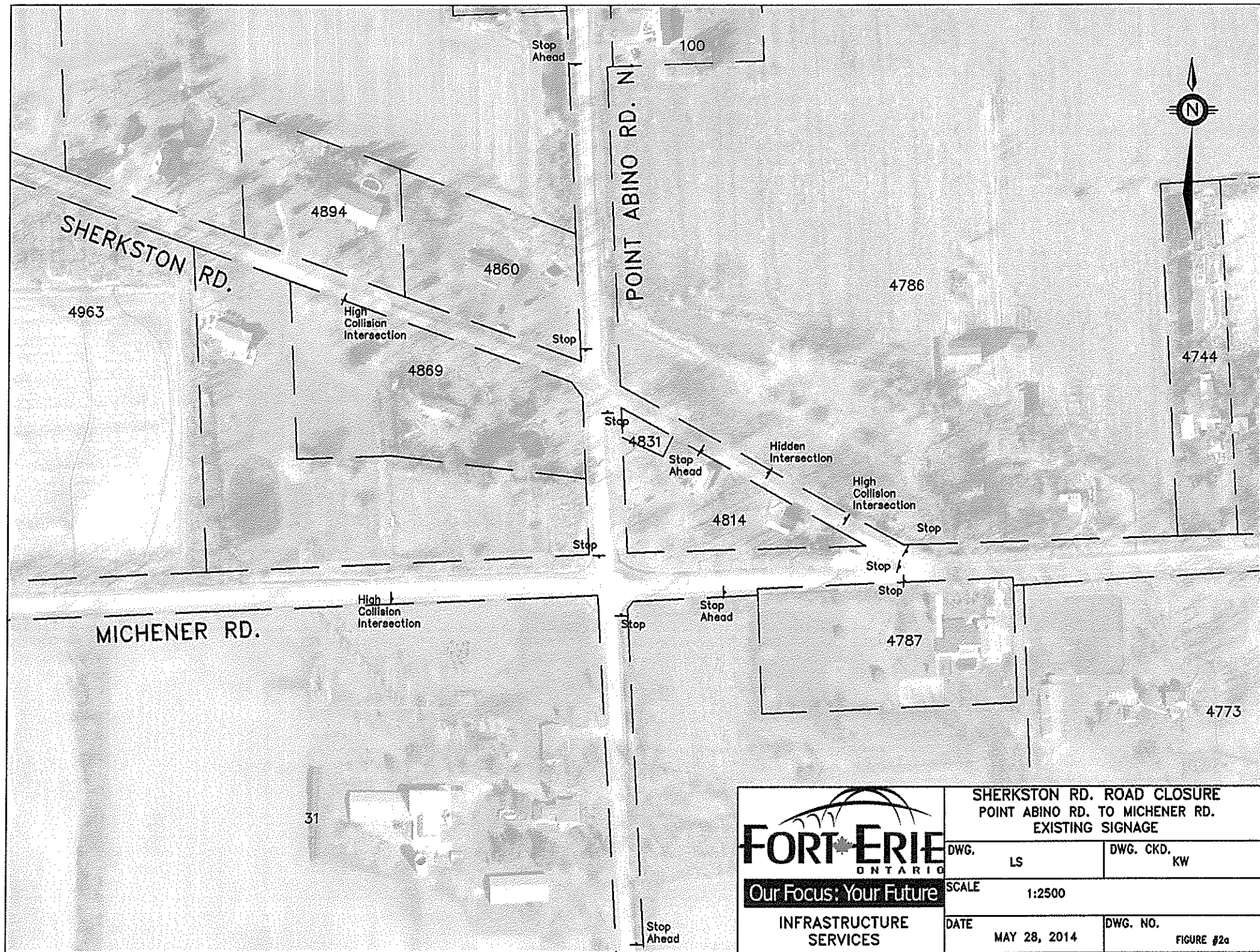


Figure 2a




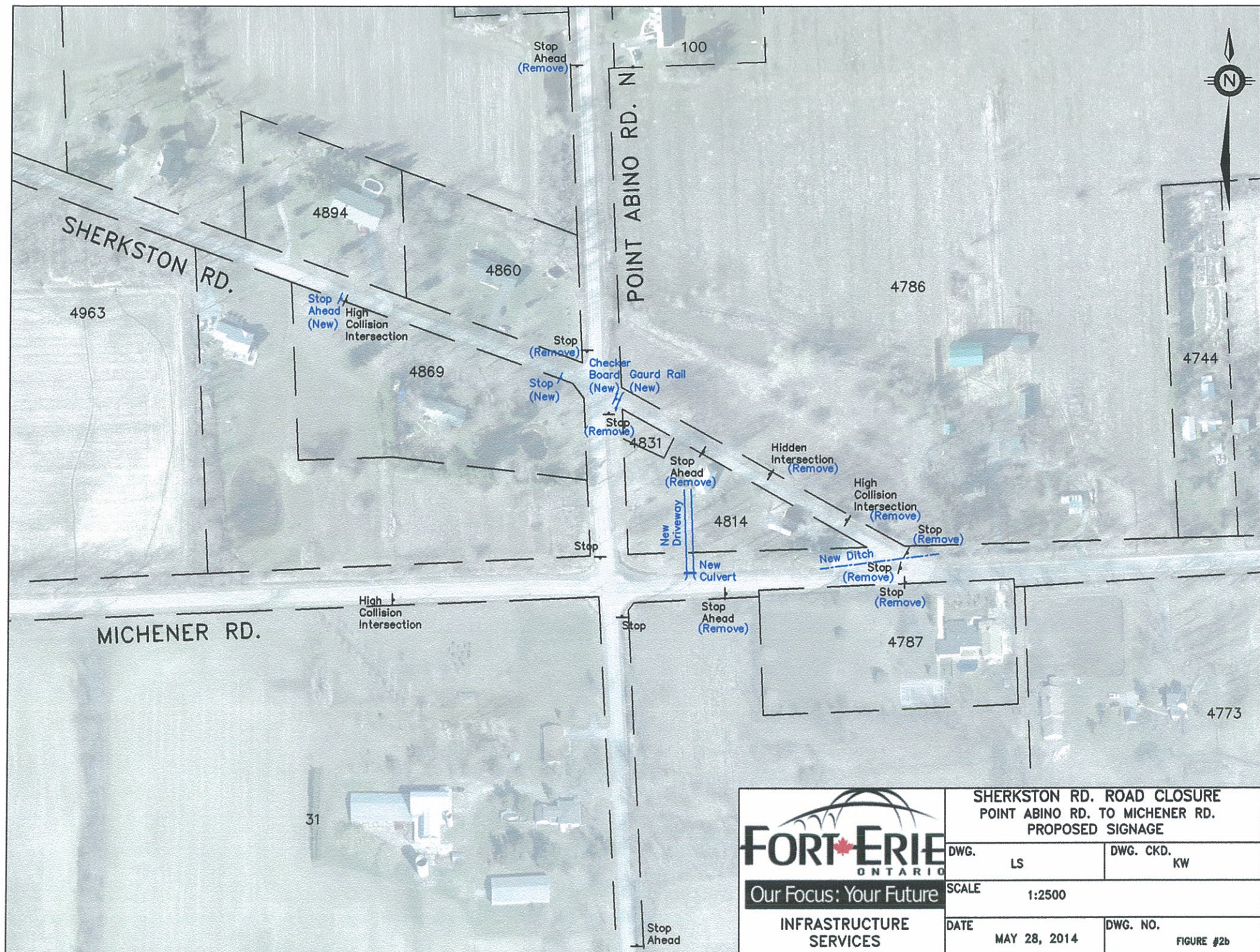

 <p>FORT-ERIE ONTARIO</p> <p>Our Focus: Your Future</p> <p>INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES</p>		<p>SHERKSTON RD. ROAD CLOSURE POINT ABINO RD. TO MICHENER RD. EXISTING SIGNAGE</p>	
DWG.	LS	DWG. CKD.	KW
SCALE	1:2500		
DATE	MAY 28, 2014	DWG. NO.	FIGURE #2a

Figure 2b



 <p>Our Focus: Your Future</p> <p>INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES</p>		SHERKSTON RD. ROAD CLOSURE POINT ABINO RD. TO MICHENER RD. PROPOSED SIGNAGE	
		DWG. LS	DWG. CKD. KW
SCALE 1:2500		DATE MAY 28, 2014	
		DWG. NO. FIGURE #2b	



CLOSED PORTION

Ridgeway
Boarding Kennels

Bertie St

Bertie St

Ridge Rd N

Bertie St

Ridge Rd N

