

**From:** [Lane Burman](#)  
**To:** [CEO Correspondence](#); [Chair of Metrolinx](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Kitchener- Graffiti on Bridge  
**Date:** November 28, 2023 12:00:45 PM

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Hello all,  
Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Many years ago, the Region of Waterloo rebuilt and widened Weber St in Kitchener. The rail bridge that crosses Weber St near Victoria St was constructed as part of the project. At the time, I was the chair of the neighbourhood association (Mt Hope Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood). We actively engaged the designers and the Region throughout the project. The neighbourhood association members were very concerned about the graffiti that we felt would occur, as there were many vertical flat surfaces to the project. We were assured by the designer that graffiti would not be a problem as the surfaces were textured, and made graffiti difficult. We did specifically inquire about the metal rail bridge. We were told that any graffiti would just 'rust' off, and it would not be attractive for graffiti. To that point, a regional councillor at the time worried that the rust would drip on the cars below. We were even told that stainless wires would be installed to 'obscure' the view of the rusting bridge. It did not work,.....not even slightly and the graffiti never 'rusted' off.

Well, we are 7 or 8 years later, and while there is/has been minimal graffiti on the vertical surfaces, the bridge remains a point of graffiti. Over the last few years, there has been more and more graffiti added to the bridge with absolutely no abatement.

I started asking The City of Kitchener about this in June, as I have continually tried to get a resolution, via the City and Region, they have now said that it is Metrolinx responsibility. The Region has also told me that they have been trying to get action from Metrolinx for a year, even offering to do the work for Metrolinx. Metrolinx has not addressed this with the Region even at their request.

Now I am requesting action. I have attached a photo of the bridge for your reference. I drive under this bridge at least once a day. It is an eyesore and we can do better than to leave this the way it is for our residents.

I would firstly ask that the bridge is fully cleaned as is our policy regarding graffiti within the City of Kitchener.

Just to demand something does not get much action, so I am offering something as well. This bridge will always be tagged with graffiti unless we take action to change it. I would offer my services to help coordinate with the Region/Metrolinx/City of Kitchener to work towards some type of solution to prevent future graffiti. Maybe some art work? Or an alternative fencing to the steel wires to block the view. I don't know what that looks like, but I am willing to participate in the solution.

I would appreciate a response to my request from staff at Metrolinx. I feel Metrolinx has an obligation to clean this kind of thing up, and take steps to prevent it from happening in the future.

Lane Burman





