BRIDGE IN THE WATER

"NORTHWOOD BRIDGE COLLAPSE"

2021 ND COUNTY ROADS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 27 – 28, 2021

FACTS

- July 22, 2019
- 42-Ton 70’ Semi on 14-Ton 56’ Length Bridge
- On Minimum Maintenance Road
- Issued overload citation of $11,400 (actually paid $8,800)
- Driver not familiar with area, GPS Route
- Bridge was Posted Correctly and Visible – Big Deal!

"Heartbreaking." Locals react to historic bridge collapse near Northwood, N.D.

By Rose Ritzvoltz | Posted: Tue 6:35 PM, Jul 23, 2019

Grand Forks County, N.D. (Valley News Live) - The semi driver was unharmed, but people around Northwood, North Dakota are feeling the loss of the historic bridge that collapsed under the weight of a tractor trailer. Valley News Live spoke with locals who summed up the general sentiment of the loss in one word: sad.

Steve Gyten grew up 200 yards from the bridge that now lies crumpled over Goose River.

"You know, my mom passed away just a year ago and...I could hear her calling for me from here," Gyten said. "We only lived a couple hundred yards away and it's kind of sad. Kind of hurts."

In rural Grand Forks County, the 84,560-pound tractor trailer that caused a bridge collapse was removed Tuesday morning.

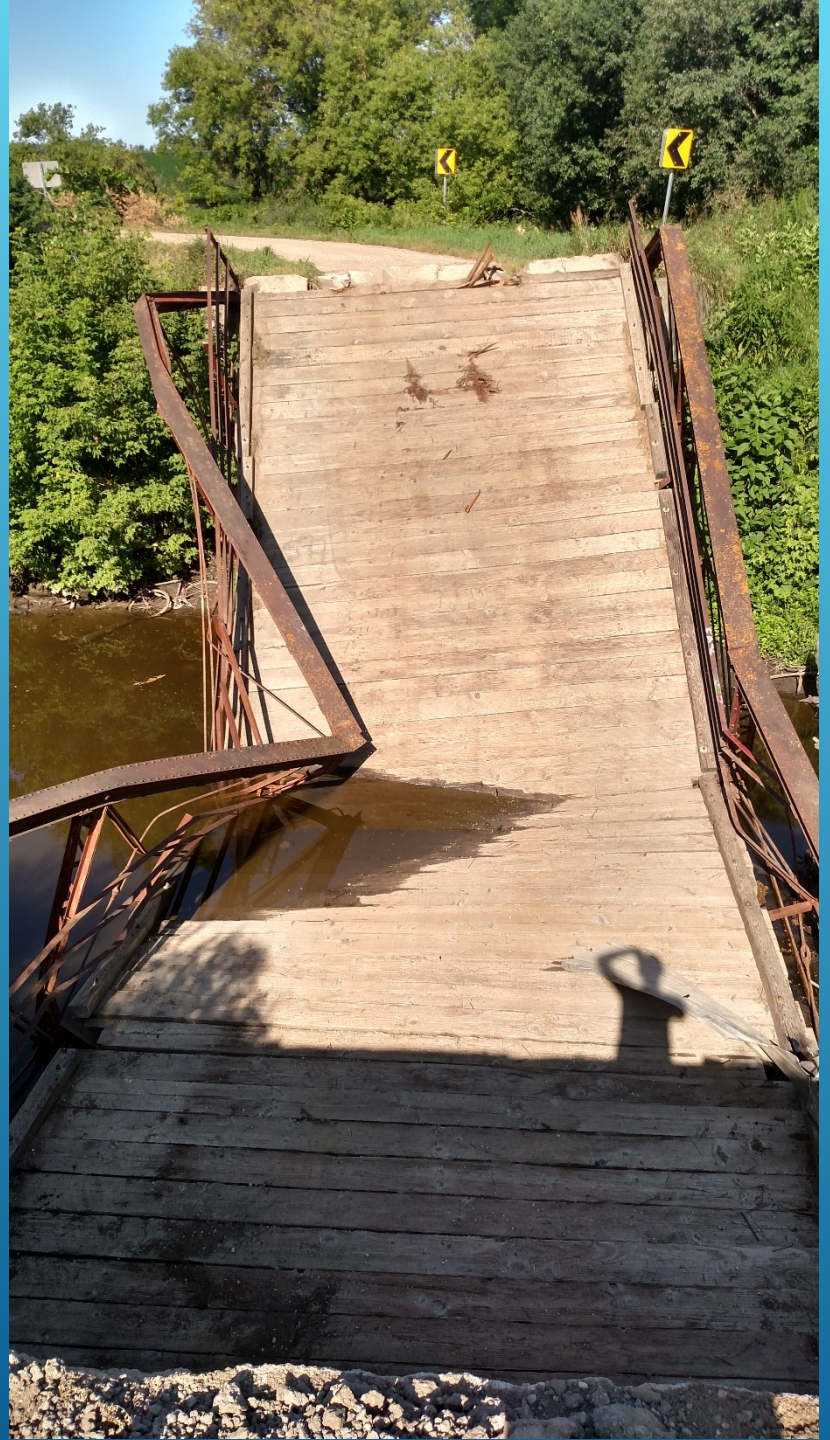
Northern Tool + Equipment

A 100-year-old bridge collapsed under a trailer carrying 42 tons of beans

By Scottie Andrew and Brian Ries, CNN
Updated 6:10 PM EDT, Wed July 24, 2019

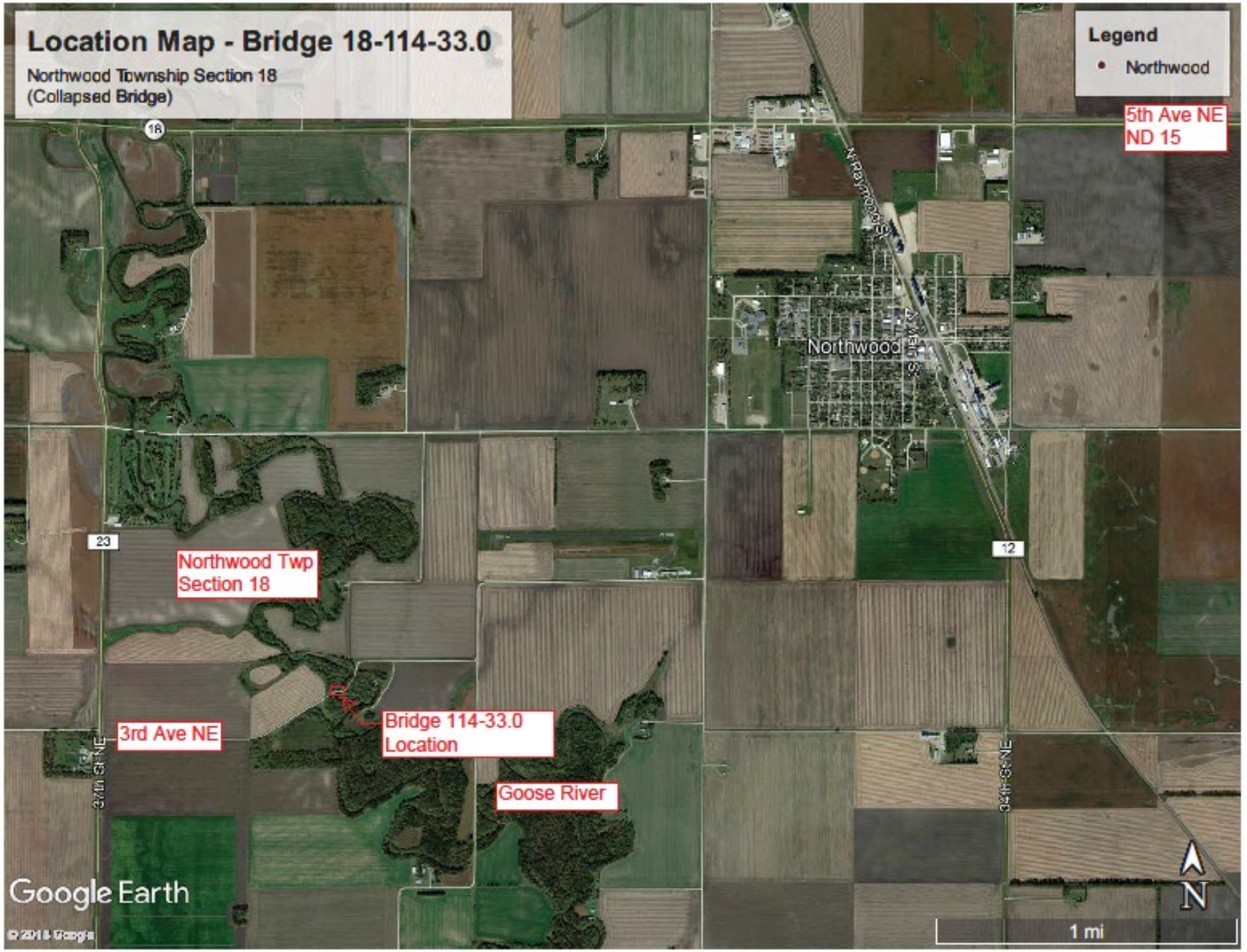
KLASS
trucking

WEIGHT LIMIT
6 TONS PER AXLE
14 TONS GROSS
WILSON
999AP



FARGO
BRIDGE & IRON
Co.
1906
FARGO N.D.

CAT
CATERPILLAR
330C L
CAT


Location Map - Bridge 18-114-33.0
Northwood Township Section 18
(Collapsed Bridge)
Legend
Northwood
5th Ave NE
ND 15
N Raymond St
Main St
Northwood
18
23
12
Northwood Twp
Section 18
3rd Ave NE
Bridge 114-33.0
Location
Goose River
34th St NE
34th St NE
Google Earth
© 2018 Google
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WHERE TO START

- Commissioners & States Attorney Involved
- Take lots of pictures
- NDDOT – Bridge Inspection Request
- National Headlines – Lots of Public Comments
- Don’t Make Promises
- Do Not Remove Anything Until the Other Side Agrees to Removal

DEFENDANT PAYS WHAT?

- $ Old Narrow Weak Jalopy Bridge?
- $$$ New Wide Long Strong Bridge?
- Removal Costs (wasn't debated)

MAKING YOUR CLAIM

- New Structure Must Meet Current Standards
  - Width (minimum 28')
  - Length (Hydraulics/Geometrics)
  - Strength (HL-93)
  - Guardrail
  - Environmental
  - Engineering, Surveying, permitting, legal, R/W, Const Eng

CLAIMS

- County Initial Claim - $824,687.50
  - $815,000 – new cast-in-place concrete bridge
  - $9,687.50 – Removal of Collapsed Bridge
- Defendant Counter Claim - $361,500
  - HL 15, 16’ x 55’ Bridge Only Offer
- County Counter Claim - $460,000
  - Prefab bridge minus attorney fees

SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE

- Avoid Expense of Litigation
- Cost Effective Bridge Option (prefab)
- $460,000

LESSONS LEARNED / REAFFIRMED

- Proper Signage is a Must
  - Advanced Signage Recommended! (lowered overload citation)
- Wait for Defendant Side Approval to Remove Collapsed Bridge
- Remove/Replace/Rehab Liability Bridges
- Must Build Current Standard Bridge
- Happens All the Time!

HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
APRIL 2015 18-119-08.0

APRIL 2015 18-119-08.0

JULY 2015 18-119-08.0 AFTER

QUESTIONS?

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