ABOUT THE CAMP BUCKEYE BRIDGE PROJECT

The West Virginia Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration is seeking comments regarding the bridge replacement of Camp Buckeye Bridge in Greenbrier County. The project consists of replacing the existing bridge upstream from its current location, utilizing the existing bridge and roadway to maintain traffic during construction. The proposed bridge centerline will be approximately 40 feet downstream from the existing bridge centerline and perpendicular to the stream. This alternative utilizes a 20 mph design speed while slightly improving the existing roadway geometry. This alternative proposes a single span bridge of approximately 130 feet in length with a 15 foot clear width. The new structure will be supported by stub abutments founded on piling. Right of way involvement will be minimal. It will include permanent right of way for the proposed bridge will be minimal. It will include permanent right of way for the proposed bridge and temporary construction easements for constructions activities. Total estimate cost is \$1,654,000.

Camp Buckeye Bridge was built in 1903 by the Brackett Bridge Company. It was determined by the WVDOH to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an intact example of an early truss. The WSHPO office has concurred with this finding.

Comments regarding the project may be mailed to the West Virginia Division of Highways at the address listed below on or before October 29, 2010.

Mr. Gregory L. Bailey, P.E.

Director, Engineering Division

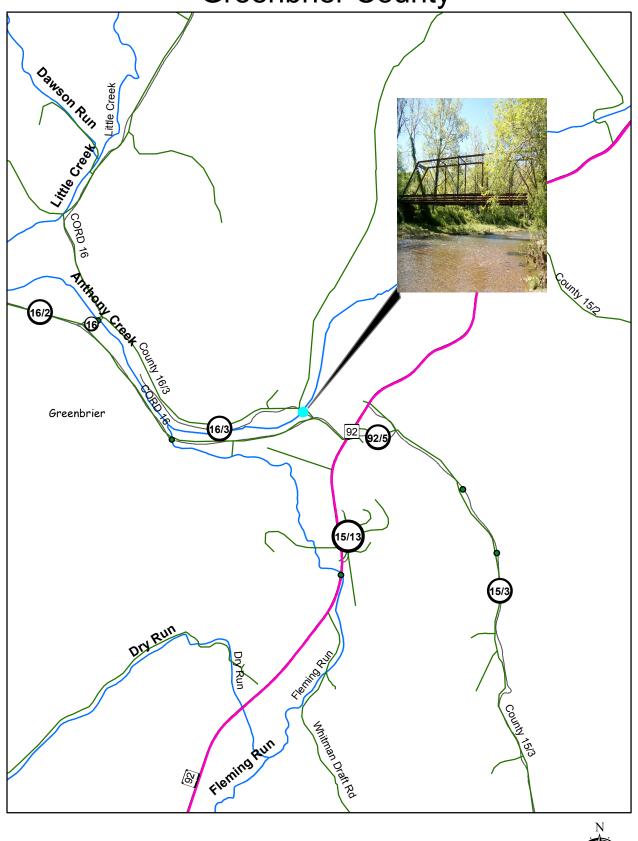
West Virginia Division of Highways

Capitol Complex Building Five

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, West Virginia 25303-0430

Camp Buckeye Bridge S313-16/3-0.02 BR-0163(001)D Greenbrier County



0.4

0.6

0.8 ■ Miles





The Culture Center 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E. Charleston, WV 25305-0300

Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562

September 24, 2010

Mr. Gregory L. Bailey, PE Director West Virginia Division of Highways Building Five, Room 110 Capitol Complex Charleston, WV 25305

Re: Camp Buckeye Bridge demolition; State Project: S213-16/3-0.02; Fed. Proj: BR-0163(003)D

FR#: 10-1486-GB

Dear Mr. Bailey:

We have reviewed the above referenced project to determine its effects to cultural resources. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

Submitted project information indicates that this project will result in the demolition of the Camp Buckeye Bridge in Greenbrier County. In addition, archaeological evaluation will be provided in a separate report.

It is your staff's opinion that the Camp Buckeye Bridge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Place under Criterion C as an intact example of an early truss. We concur with this assessment. In addition, your office has explored rehabilitating the bridge but has concluded that the bridge would not meet current safety standards for vehicle traffic without replacing every part of the bridge and that the bridge would still remain functionally obsolete. Because the abutments for the new bridge will occupy some of the area of the current abutments, it is not possible to retain the bridge. It is your staff's opinion that the demolition of the bridge will result in an adverse effect to a historic resource. We concur with this assessment. Presently, you have forwarded a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for our comment.

We want to acknowledge that the stipulations included for this bridge are an improvement from those typically offered by your agency. Along with documentation through photographs and the assurance of the documentation's inclusion on an assyet-to-be finished website, the stipulations included donating copies of plan sheets and drawings of the bridge from your agency's file if available as well as providing the documentation to the Greenbrier County Public Library in Lewisburg. However, after review of the document, it is our opinion that the proposed stipulations are not acceptable mitigation for the proposed undertaking. This project will result in the demolition of a historic resource and not merely changes to the structure. The loss of this important historic structure warrants more thorough mitigation other than what has been proposed. It is our opinion that it is important to educate the public regarding these structures and what makes them historic resources. We have noted your agency's reluctance to provide

September 24, 2010

Mr. Bailey

FR#: 10-1486-GB

Page 2

more creative mitigation for these historic truss bridges that are being demolished on a regular basis by your agency. In that vein, we propose that an educational proponent occur regarding truss bridges in general instead of one bridge in particular. Once complete, this documentation would become a standard stipulation for eligible truss bridges for every MOA for these historic resources. Your standard MOA would then include the documentation of the structure through the completion of an Historic Property Inventory (HPI) form, photograph documentation, donation of the plan sheet and drawings to the West Virginia State Archives, inclusion of the documentation on an as-yet-to-be-completed website and donation of the documentation as well as the educational component that would be developed for all of the eligible truss bridges to appropriate organizations and agencies. It is our opinion, and experience in cooperating with other state and federal agencies, that this would result in more appropriate and useful mitigation that would actually be used by the public rather than stored away in an office file. Further, it is our experience in dealing with similarly situated agencies that this is not an excessive request for mitigation. We respectfully request your consideration of these proposed stipulations.

Public Comments

It is our understanding that your staff has contacted the Greenbrier Historic Society and that they have no comment on the bridge replacement. We also request that you contact the Greenbrier County Historic Landmark Commission (HLC), providing that organization the opportunity to comment. Their contact information is below.

Greenbrier HLC
Greenbrier County Courthouse
200 North Court St.
Lewisburg, WV 24901
contact: Doug Hylton
dghylton@aol.com
304-647-6630

We will continue our review upon receipt of the requested information.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Shirley Stewart Burns, Structural Historian, at (304) 558-0240.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/SSB

cc: Doug Hylton, Greenbrier HLC

DATE:

Mr. Gregory L. Bailey, P.E. Director, Engineering Division West Virginia Division of Highways State Capitol Complex, Building 5 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430

PROJECT: Camp Buckeye Bridge Replacement

Greenbrier County

State Project Number S213-16/3-0.02 Federal Project Number BR-0163(003)D

COMMENTS DUE BY October 29, 2010

| Please consider the following comments: | |
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| (Please print the following information) | |
| NAME: | |
| ADDRESS: | |
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| ORGANIZATION (IF ANY): | |

