

WELCOME

Open House Public Meeting
for the
Thurmond Bridge Rehabilitation Project
State Project: State Project S310-25/2-0.10
Federal Project: BR-0252(001)D

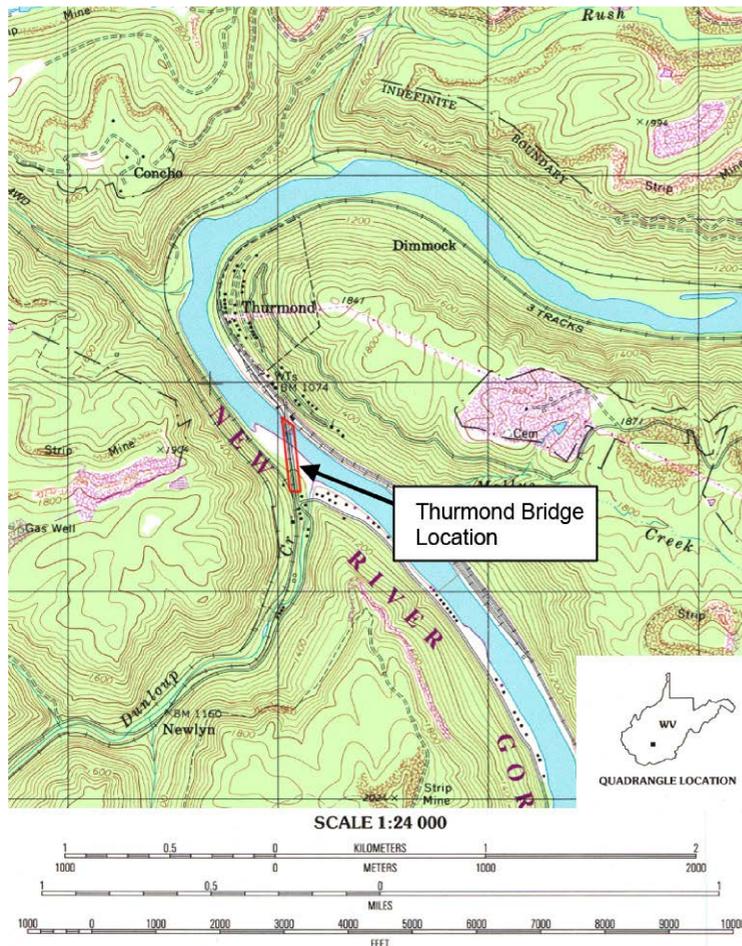


May 7, 2015
Old Glen Jean Bank
Glean Jean, WV
4:00-7:00 PM



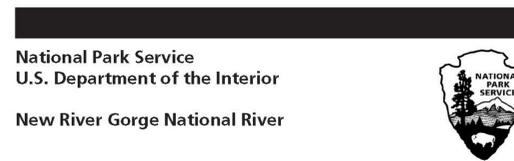
www.transportation.wv.gov

PROJECT OVERVIEW



The Thurmond Bridge carries a rail line and a single-lane roadway across the New River in Raleigh County, WV. The structure lies within the New River Gorge National River Park. The bridge and railroad as well as the town district surrounding the bridge are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The bridge was built in the 1910's. Its current deteriorating condition and anticipated increased use by pedestrians have led the West Virginia Division of Highways to investigate options other than routine maintenance.



Thurmond: Heart of the New River Gorge



National Park Service brochure cover.

With only an 11-foot wide road and no shoulder or sidewalk, the current bridge does not accommodate both vehicles and pedestrians very well.

The deteriorating condition of the bridge will lead to further weight restrictions and, eventually, bridge closure. Detours to Glen Jean take over an hour.



Thurmond Railroad Depot which serves as the NPS Visitor Center. There is limited parking available on this side of the River. (Photo by Louise McLaughlin)

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the process of restoring historic properties in Thurmond. The Thurmond Railroad Depot now serves as a Visitor Center for the NPS. Because of limited space near the Center, visitors often park on the other side of the River and use the Thurmond Bridge to cross. The NPS anticipates increasing use of the Center, as restoration efforts continue in the town and more people learn about this cultural and scenic resource.

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the Thurmond Bridge with a structure that continues to provide vehicular and pedestrian access to Thurmond, WV and its National Park Service resources and that provides increased safety for pedestrians utilizing the bridge.



Thurmond Bridge Rehabilitation Project

ALTERNATIVES

Note: WVDOH initially considered alternatives for building a new roadway bridge up or down river. However, those alternatives were dismissed because of their high cost and high degree of impact to the environment, such as from the placement of new bridge piers in the New River. Further studies found that rehabilitation alternatives could satisfy the purpose and need for the project.

In order to address the bridge's deteriorating condition and restore its 12-ton weight capacity, all Rehabilitation Alternatives include the following repairs:

- Replacement of deteriorated timber ties and planking
- Jacking and temporarily support the truss and girders while the bearings are replaced
- Bearing replacement
- Wingwall reconstruction
- Structural repairs to the deteriorated steel members and connections, including:
 - Plating of the truss low chords at a few areas of heavy loss
 - Replacement of several truss lateral gusset plates and cap plates with heavy loss
 - Plating of several girder flanges, stiffeners and lateral gussets that exhibit significant loss with through holing
 - Strengthening of eight roadway brackets and several connection repairs to the bottom flanges
 - Repairs to strengthen truss gusset plates
 - Stringer strengthening repairs
- Replacement of deteriorated rivets with bolts
- Cleaning, sealing, and painting



The portion of the bridge used by vehicular traffic is cantilevered to the east side of the older railroad bridge. The roadway is supported by brackets, some closed and some open (photos above and below). Several of these brackets will be strengthened with the rehabilitation.



ALTERNATIVES (CONT.)

- **Alternative 1: No Build Alternative**
- **Alternative 2: Repairs**
- **Alternative 3: Repairs & filling a strip of the grid for improved pedestrian conditions**
- **Alternative 4 (Preferred): Repairs; filling a strip of the grid for improved pedestrian conditions; & addition of refuge/observation bays**
- **Alternative 5: Repairs & addition of full length sidewalk, upstream side**
- **Alternative 6: Repairs & addition of full length sidewalk, downstream side**
- **Alternative 7: Repairs & addition of overflow parking at the Depot end of the bridge**



Grating that could be filled to help pedestrians feel safer (Alternative 3).



Example views of pedestrian refuge bays that could be added to the bridge (Alternative 4).



ALTERNATIVE IMPACTS

Alternative 1	Does not meet purpose and need of project. Bridge will have increasing weight restrictions and eventual closure, leading to detours for residents and park visitors. <i>No direct cost.</i>
Alternative 2	Impact to historic quality of bridge. Does not address need for improving pedestrian safety. <i>Estimated Cost*: \$8.14 M</i>
Alternative 3	Impact to historic quality of bridge. Does not thoroughly address need for improving pedestrian safety. <i>Estimated Cost*: \$8.37 M</i>
Alternative 4**	Impact to historic quality of bridge. <i>Estimated Cost*: \$8.68 M</i>
Alternative 5	Determined not to be feasible.
Alternative 6	Impact to historic quality of bridge. Requires right-of-way for a trail to access parking on other side of roadway. <i>Estimated Cost*: \$9.91 M</i>
Alternative 7	Impact to historic quality of Thurmond. Requires right-of-way for parking lot. Does not address safety concern for the pedestrians who will still use the bridge for the view or other reason. <i>Estimated Cost*: \$7.97 M</i>

**Costs include two Phases of repairs. At this time, Phase 1 is planned; Phase 1 will cost less than the totals presented here. For all Rehabilitation Alternatives, Phase 2 will include painting the entire structure at a later time if and when funding is available.*

***Currently, Alternative 4 is the Preferred Alternative. WVDOH invites public comment on the alternative selection.*

DATE:

Mr. R.J. Scites, P.E.
Director, Engineering Division
West Virginia Division of Highways
1334 Smith Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

DATE: Thursday, May 7, 2015
LOCATION: Old Glen Jean Bank
SUBJECT: OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING
PROJECT: Thurmond Bridge Project
S310-25/2-0.10
BR-0252(001)D
Fayette County

COMMENTS DUE BY Monday, June 8, 2015

Please consider the following comments:

(Please print the following information)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

ORGANIZATION (IF ANY):

How did you hear about the Informational Public Open House Meeting?

Project Information and Comment Sheets

Can be found online at our WVDOH Website at <http://go.wv.gov/dotcomment>.

Under Engineering Projects, Open, and then click Thurmond Bridge.