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Notice of Public Meeting

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a Public Meeting on Monday, August 7, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. to announce the replacement of a historic metal truss bridge located on CR 206 (Lincoln Park Road) at West Prong Sister Grove within Grayson County. The public meeting will be held at Van Alstyne Community Center, 211 North Preston, Van Alstyne, Texas.

The existing one-lane Warren pony truss bridge on Lincoln Park Road, built in 1890, has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Proposed bridge schematic alignments involve realignment of the existing roadway and bridge alignment in order to reduce the horizontal curvature. No homes or buildings will be displaced as a result of this project. To preserve the existing historic bridge, TxDOT and Grayson County propose relocating the structure to Van Alstyne City Park located adjacent to Van Alstyne Elementary School on Highway 5.

The new bridge schematic drawings including proposed site drawings of the new City Park will be available for viewing and discussion at the public meeting. All interested citizens are invited to attend this public meeting. Persons with special communication or accommodation needs planning to attend this meeting should contact the Sherman Area Office at (903) 892-6529 at least two (2) working days prior to the public meeting. For more information, contact Ronnie Perry at (903) 892-6529.

CR 206

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

AUGUST 7, 2000

6:00 P.M.

Van Alstyne Community Center

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions: Bobby Littlefield, Sherman Area Office Engineer
2. Elected Officials: Judge Horace Groff, Grayson County
Doug Walker, Precinct 1 Commission
Mayor Edwards, Van Alstyne, Texas
3. Project Description: Bobby Littlefield-SAO (overall project)
Clay Grote-SAO
Mike O'Toole-BRG (discuss relocation issues)
Charles Walker-BRG (discuss bridge/repairs)
Lisa Hart-ENV (discuss SHPO/FHWA)
4. Open for Public Comments & Questions
5. Adjourn Meeting:



Oral and written comments may be made during the open comment period of this Public Meeting. TxDOT will also receive oral and written comments within ten days of this Public Meeting (by August 17, 2000) concerning the proposed bridge replacement improvements on CR 206 (Lincoln Park Road).

Comments may be mailed to:

**TxDOT – CR 206 Project
3711 U.S. 75 South
Sherman, Texas 75090-0517**

If you have any questions concerning this project, please call, fax or e-mail:

**Ronnie Perry, P.E.
Sherman Area Design Engineer
Phone: (903) 892-6529
Fax: (903) 813-0134
E-mail: rperry1@mailgw.dot.state.tx.us**

I wish to make an oral statement at the meeting.

I wish to make the following written statement:

Name: _____ Representing: _____

Address: _____

Additional written comments may be made on the back of this form where indicated. To mail, please fold in half with this page on the inside and affix a postage stamp. Please tape (**do not staple**) closed.

L-1

(Insert Date Here)

(Insert Name of County Historical Commission Chairperson Here)

(Insert Address Here)

Dear (Insert Name Here):

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has authorized the replacement of the bridge at (Insert Project Location Here). A project location map is attached.

This bridge was included in the State Historic Bridge Inventory, a statewide study of historic bridges that TxDOT conducted in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission. Because the bridge did not meet our criteria for statewide significance, it has been determined not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

While the bridge does not have known state significance, we do recognize that it may have other local/regional historical associations. If you feel that the bridge is significant at a local or regional level, then please provide us with written information concerning the history of the bridge and its role in your community's history. We request that you send us your response no later than (Insert date at least one month from date of this letter).

If you feel that the bridge does not have any local/regional significance, then please endorse this letter and return it to us by (Insert date at least one month from date of this letter). This endorsement will signify your concurrence that the bridge is not historically significant. If we do not receive a response within 30 days, we will assume that you concur with the findings of the State Historic Bridge Inventory.

Please feel free to call (name) at (xxx-xxxx) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Endorsement to the Texas Department of Transportation

County Historical Commission Chairperson

Date

L-2

(Insert Date Here)

(Insert Name of County Historical Commission Chairperson Here)
(Insert Address Here)

Dear (Insert Name Here):

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has authorized the replacement of the bridge at (Insert Project Location Here). A project location map is attached.

This bridge has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the State Historic Bridge Inventory, a statewide study of historic bridges conducted jointly by TxDOT, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Federal Highway Administration. Based on an examination of different bridge types in the state and background research on these bridges, this study evaluated the statewide significance of 1,200 metal truss bridges in Texas. The bridge at (Insert Project Location here) was included in this study.

At this time, we are requesting your comments on the proposed bridge replacement project. If you are aware of any local interest in preserving the bridge, please indicate that in your response. We also would appreciate your input on the bridge's local historic significance. In your opinion, does the bridge have local historic significance? Does its local significance make it worthy of preservation?

Because we need to develop our preliminary plans on this project as soon as possible, we are requesting that you return your comments to us by (Insert Date One Month From Date On This Letter Here). We have included a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience. If you are unable to respond by the specified date, we will assume that you do not have an interest in preserving this bridge.

We appreciate your participation in our project planning process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact (fill in appropriate name and phone number).

Sincerely,

L-3

(Insert Date Here)

(Insert Name of County Historical Commission Chairperson Here)
(Insert Address Here)

Dear (Insert Name Here):

Reference is made to our letter of (Insert Date Here) concerning the proposed bridge replacement project on (Insert Project Location Here) and your (Insert Date Here) letter of response, indicating that the bridge is an historically significant structure.

Because of your interest in the bridge, the Texas Historical Commission has agreed to reconsider the bridge's National Register eligibility. If the Texas Historical Commission decides to reclassify the bridge as a National Register eligible property, the project will then fall subject to a number of federal review processes (including the Section 106 process) that pertain to projects with historically significant properties.

The Texas Historical Commission has agreed that it will only re-classify a bridge as National Register eligible if **additional historical documentation is submitted on the bridge and this documentation evidences that the bridge is closely associated with significant local events.** The bridge must also have retained historic integrity of those features which convey its significance (relocations, major alterations and rehabilitations often can diminish a bridge's historic integrity).

The type of information that needs to be submitted includes:

- 1) documentation on the bridge's date of construction, builder, original construction costs, etc.
- 2) documentation on the significance of the bridge at the time it was build and on the role it has played in the community over the years.
- 3) information on the route on which the bridge is located (road linking two important county towns, road linking local farms to railroad connection, road linking two county seats, etc.);
- 4) documentation on any past bridge relocations, alterations or rehabilitations;
- 5) documentation on important historical events that have occurred at the bridge over the years (ribbon-cutting ceremonies, community events, etc.);
- 6) documentation on the bridge's current condition and its ability to accommodate present/future traffic loads and volumes.

For off-system (county-owned) bridges, information on items (1) - (4) can often be found in the *County Commissioner's Minutes* and in local county histories. County or local engineers can also provide you with information on item (6) for off-system bridges. In most cases, our office can provide you with copies of the original plans and correspondence files for bridges built on the highway system. We can also give you information on item (6).

In general, subjective, vague, or inconclusive information on a bridge is not considered to be sufficient to warrant a bridge's re-classification as a National Register eligible property.

Examples of inappropriate types of information include:

- 1) descriptions of the "aesthetics" and "natural beauty" of a bridge or its setting;
- 2) information on the historic significance of the creek/river which the bridge crosses or the area surrounding a bridge (such as local archeological sites, nearby historic buildings, etc.) but not on the bridge itself;
- 3) expressions of emotional attachment to a bridge.

If you have additional questions on the type of documentation that needs to be submitted, you may want to contact the National Register Division of the Texas Historical Commission at (512)463-6094.

We are requesting that you forward any information you compile to our office no later than (include date 60 days from date of your letter). Because we need to proceed with our planning for this project as quickly as possible, it is important that we receive your response by the indicated date. The Texas Historical Commission has also agreed that it will keep a bridge classified as National Register ineligible bridge if a response is not received within 60 days of our letter. Once your information is received in our office, it will be forwarded to the Texas Historical Commission for their consideration.

If you have any questions on this request, please contact (Insert Name Here) of our office at (Insert Telephone Number Here). Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

EXAMPLE