



## NEWS RELEASE

### AUSTIN DISTRICT

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## TXDOT OPEN HOUSES ON HISTORIC METAL TRUSS BRIDGES

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**AUSTIN** – If you traveled along a local Texas road in the late 19th and early 20th century, you would more than likely come up on a new metal truss bridge spanning a creek or stream. These strong and inexpensive bridges were built by the hundreds in Texas, promising a safe crossing to continue on your journey.

Flash forward to today, where current traffic needs, safety concerns, and deterioration continue to push these historic metal truss bridges out of vehicular service. To limit the losses, TxDOT is developing a management plan for about 130 surviving bridges, in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Historic Bridge Foundation.

“We need your feedback,” noted Bruce Jensen, TxDOT’s Cultural Resource Management Director. “TxDOT only manages about 15 percent of these historic trusses, with the balance owned by local governments. We hope county judges and commissioners, historical societies, and other interested folks will join the conversation online or at one of our upcoming open houses. We believe it is critical that these decisions include opinions that reflect local priorities.”

Local sponsors graciously offered facilities for the following open houses:

- Bastrop on Thursday, July 23, from 4-6 p.m. at the Museum and Visitor Center of the Bastrop County Historical Society, 904 Main Street
- Waco on Tuesday, July 28, from 4-6 p.m. at the Texas Ranger Museum, 100 Texas Ranger Trail
- Abilene on Tuesday, August 4, from 4-6 p.m. at the Elks Arts Center Ballroom, 1174 North 1st Street
- Victoria on Tuesday, August 11, from 4-6 p.m. at the Victoria Public Library, 302 North Main Street

Additionally, we encourage participants to bring photographs, articles, and other materials related to historic bridges to these open houses. Materials will be scanned for inclusion in the THC archives and a local history collection, with the originals returned to their owners.

More information about the open houses and the overall project can be found on TxDOT’s website: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/historic-bridge.html>. Also, you can contact TxDOT Cultural Resources Management Director, Bruce Jensen, at (512) 416-2628 or [bruce.jensen@txdot.gov](mailto:bruce.jensen@txdot.gov).

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The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 12,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov). “Like” us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter/TxDOTAustin](#).

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