



# Historic Bridge Adoption Information Packet

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Newton County, Texas and  
Vernon Parish, Louisiana

SH 63 / LA 8 Sabine River Bridge

Sabine River

July 13, 2020

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## Announcement

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is offering the historic bridge detailed below for adoption and reuse according to federal transportation and historic preservation laws. The bridge is located in Newton County, TX and Vernon Parish, LA on SH 63 / LA 8 crossing the Sabine River.

Letters of interest and/or reuse proposals will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2020.

Interested parties may request additional information, indicate an interest, or submit a reuse proposal by contacting:

Jason Hightower, Environmental Specialist  
TxDOT Beaumont District, TP&D  
8350 Eastex Freeway  
Beaumont, TX 77708  
Phone Number: (409) 898-5820  
Email address: [jason.hightower@txdot.gov](mailto:jason.hightower@txdot.gov)



## Bridge Location

- **County:** Newton County, TX and Vernon Parish, LA.
- **Highway or Facility:** SH 63 / LA 8
- **Feature Crossed:** Sabine River
- **GIS Locational Information** <https://arcg.is/1iyqn5>

## Bridge Information

- **Bridge Owner** Texas Department of Transportation  
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- **Main-span Type:** Parker through spans
- **Main-span Length** 1 @ 250'; 2 @ 120'
- **Roadway Width** 24 feet
- **Year Built** 1937
- **Builder** W. Horace Williams Company of New Orleans, Louisiana

## Bridge Condition and Load Rating

The bridge is 1,876 feet long with three Parker through truss spans and 34 reinforced concrete girder approach spans and is currently load posted for a weight limit of 49,000 pounds gross and 29,000 pounds tandem. The steel superstructure has widespread rust and corrosion on the steel truss members. Impact damage is evident on the trusses' verticals, and inclined end posts. Impact damage on these members has resulted in warping, buckling, bowing, and tearing of the steel members. Further impact damage is also seen on the bottom chords, stringers, and floor beams from floating debris during high-water events.

## Historic Significance of the Bridge

The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A (Events/Trends) and Criterion C (Engineering) at the state level of significance. The bridge was built from 1936 to 1937 with federal emergency relief funds during the Great Depression. Based on its association with this program, the bridge meets Criterion A in the area of Transportation (subcategory Depression-era Public Works). The design of the bridge also addressed difficult site conditions and employed innovative solutions, including the use of long spans and a slightly curved alignment. Therefore, the bridge meets Criterion C in the area of Engineering.

## TxDOT Estimated Work Items and Costs

Costs to rehabilitate the bridge for pedestrian use are estimated by TxDOT bridge engineers based on TxDOT expenditures for similar items on other bridges. All prospective owners should have access to a structural engineer to assist in determining the appropriate work to be completed as well as appropriate estimates. Costs may vary outside the TxDOT system.

The following construction items may be phased.

- Repair damaged members and corroded sections on truss members: \$291,780.00
- Install pedestrian railing: \$487,760.00
- Clean and paint existing structure: \$1,800,000.00

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**Total Costs**

<b>\$ 2,579,540</b>
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## Bridge Photographs



