



Documentation of Stakeholder Meeting

Project Location

Brazoria County

SH 332 Historic Truss Bridge

TxDOT CSJ: 1524-01-076

Project Limits

At the Brazos River

Meeting Location

Barrow Elementary School

112 Gaines St, Brazoria, TX 77422

Meeting Date and Time

November 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Translation Services

Not applicable

Presenters

Renee Benn, TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Historian

Michelle Milliard, P.E., TxDOT Brazoria Area Engineer

Julie Beaubien, TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming Public Involvement Specialist

Elected Officials in Attendance

David Linder, Brazoria County Commissioner (Precinct 4)

Total Number of Attendees (approx.)

15

Total Number of Commenters

Not applicable



Contents

- A. Comment/response matrix
- B. Notices
- C. Sign-in sheets
- D. Comments received
- E. Agenda, Project Handouts, and PowerPoint Presentation



Attachment A

Comment/Response Matrix

(Not applicable; no comment forms received)



Attachment B

Notices

Maryellen Russo

From: Renee Benn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 8:21 AM
To: Maryellen Russo
Subject: FW: SH 332 truss bridge at Brazos River, Brazoria County
Attachments: Barrow Elementary School Location Map.pdf

From: Renee Benn
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 9:15 AM
To: 'Linda Henderson'; [REDACTED] 'Kitty Henderson' [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Christine Bergren; Michelle Milliard; Julie Beaubien; Allen Bettis Jr
Subject: SH 332 truss bridge at Brazos River, Brazoria County

Good morning,

The Texas Department of Transportation is undergoing project planning regarding the historic truss bridge at SH 332 over the Brazos River in Brazoria, located between SH 36 and FM 521 in Brazoria County. Some of you may have spoken to my colleague Julie Beaubien regarding this project yesterday. We've identified you as someone that is interested in the bridge's history. TxDOT is planning a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2017, from 5:30-7:30 PM at Barrow Elementary School, located at 112 Gaines Street in Brazoria, TX 77422 (see attached map).

We will be sharing a short presentation and presenting potential options for the future of this historic bridge moving forward. There will be a discussion afterward and we encourage you to provide your feedback. This is not a formal TxDOT hearing - just an opportunity for interested parties to talk to us, and for TxDOT to hear from you.

We would appreciate confirmation of your attendance; please let us know if you plan to attend no later than Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017.

Thank you very much and hope to see you there! Please contact me with any questions.

Renee Benn
Houston District Historian, TxDOT Environmental Affairs division

Phone: [REDACTED]



In 2017, alcohol-related traffic crash fatalities represented 28 percent of total traffic crash fatalities in Texas.



Attachment C

Sign-in Sheets

Attendance

Total Attendance: 15

Elected Officials: 1

Brazoria County and City Staff: 2

Section 106 Consulting Parties/Stakeholders: 6

TxDOT personnel: 4

Project Consultants: 2



SIGN IN SHEET

Stakeholder Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2017
Historic SH 332 Truss Bridge at the Brazos River
CSJ: 1524-01-076

Name	Address	Email	Affiliation
Mary Ruth Phordenaugh	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Janie R. Edwards			
JD Allen			
David Kinder			
Mike Mullenweg			
RL Schwebel DIM			



Attachment D

Comments Received
(See Stakeholder Meeting Minutes)

STAKEHOLDER MEETING MINUTES

SH 332 BRIDGE at BRAZOS RIVER, CSJ 1524-01-076

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2004, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of the new State Highway (SH) 332 bridge at the Brazos River. TxDOT established a three-party agreement in which the City of Brazoria and Brazoria County agreed to assume ownership and rehabilitate the historic SH 332 truss bridge. In 2010, the construction of the new SH 332 bridge was complete, and the historic SH 332 truss bridge was removed from service. In 2011, Brazos County terminated the agreement and transferred responsibilities for the bridge back to TxDOT. In 2016 and early 2017, TxDOT conducted an alternatives analysis to determine options for the historic SH 332 truss bridge.

On November 16, 2017, TxDOT conducted a historic stakeholder meeting at Barrow Elementary School in Brazoria, Texas, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The school is approximately 0.65 mile southwest of the historic truss bridge. The purpose of the meeting was to gain input from project stakeholders on the potential options for the SH 332 historic truss bridge. The meeting was part of the Section 106 consultation process which requires that agencies “take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford... a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings” (36 CFR 800.1). A copy of the meeting agenda is in **Appendix A**.

This report includes documentation of the stakeholder meeting and discussions that occurred at that meeting regarding the SH 332 bridge at the Brazos River.

2.0 STAKEHOLDERS

In October 2017, TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division (ENV) Historian Renee Benn contacted the stakeholders via email. TxDOT Public Involvement (PI) Specialist Julie Beaubien also called several stakeholders. Ms. Benn sent emails to stakeholders including statewide and local preservation organizations, and individuals who expressed interest in the project. These emails invited the stakeholders to the upcoming stakeholder meeting and provided general information about the project. TxDOT Brazoria Area Engineer Michelle Milliard also contacted the Brazoria County Commissioners and Brazoria County Engineer Clay Forrester to invite him to the meeting. She also contacted Brazoria County Engineer Matt Hanks and Brazoria City Manager Teresa Border to remind them about the meeting.

The complete list of contacted parties included the following organizations and individuals:

- Brazoria County Commissioners
- Brazoria County Historical Museum
- Brazos County Historical Commission (CHC)
- Brazosport Archeological Society
- City Manager of Brazoria
- Historic Bridge Foundation (HBF)
- Texas Archeological Steward for Brazoria County
- Texas Historical Cemetery Guardianship Association
- Texas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Individuals
 - J.D. Allen (property owner near the historic SH 332 bridge)
 - Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh (former Brazoria County Commissioner)

TxDOT also created a webpage for the project on their website: <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/sh-332-truss-bridge.html>. The webpage includes project information, the current conditions of the historic SH 332 bridge, proposed options for the bridge, a timeline for next steps, and an online comment form.

3.0 ATTENDANCE

A total of nine people (non-staff) attended the stakeholder meeting. The attendees were:

- Clay Forrester, Brazoria County Engineer
- David Linder, Brazoria County Commissioner Precinct 4
- Mike Mullenweg, Brazoria County Parks
- Bob Schwebel, Brazoria Heritage Foundation

- Linda Henderson, Texas SHPO (via phone)
- Kitty Henderson, HBF (via phone)
- Janice Edwards, *The Bulletin*
- Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh
- J.D. Allen

Project team members who attended the meeting included:

- Renee Benn, TxDOT ENV Project Historian
- Julie Beaubien, TxDOT PI Specialist
- Christine Bergren, TxDOT Houston (HOU) Environmental Coordinator (EC)
- Michelle Milliard, TxDOT Brazoria Office Area Engineer
- Alexis Reynolds, B&A Project Historian

Laura Vasquez, a TxDOT-contracted PI specialist at Jimenes and Associates, also attended the meeting. Copies of the sign-in sheets for non-TxDOT project team members are provided in **Appendix B**.

4.0 FORMAT

TxDOT staff greeted attendees at the sign-in table upon arrival and offered a project summary handout and comment form. The handout is in **Appendix C**. The stakeholder meeting was an informal gathering where attendees shared their comments in an open forum. No completed comment forms were received. A series of poster displays showed the various options for the treatment of historic metal truss bridges including bike/pedestrian trails, reuse bridge in park or trail, monument with access, and monument without access. Ms. Milliard opened the meeting welcoming the attendees. All of the attendees also introduced themselves and the organization/agency in which they were affiliated, followed by Ms. Benn and Ms. Milliard who conducted a short PowerPoint presentation that included the history of the project, current issues with the historic SH 332 bridge, and bridge options under consideration. The PowerPoint presentation is in **Appendix C**. At the completion of the presentation, Ms. Beaubien facilitated a discussion with the attendees. Below is a summary of the presentation and discussion.

5.0 MEETING MINUTES

5.1. PowerPoint Presentation

Ms. Benn presented the background of the project, and Ms. Milliard noted that the historic SH 332 bridge was located along a secondary evacuation route for the Brazosport area. Ms. Milliard explained that in the three-party agreement, the City of Brazoria and Brazoria County agreed to take over the responsibility of the bridge and convert it to pedestrian use. Linda Henderson asked if there is a current commitment to reverse the deterioration of the bridge before an option is

selected. Ms. Milliard stated that since the work under the three-party agreement was not completed, the federal funding (\$490,000) is still available for a non-vehicular use of the bridge. Currently a chain link fence on both approaches prevents access to the bridge.

Ms. Milliard then discussed the current condition of the bridge, including section loss up to 75 percent in some areas, significant settlement between a north approach span and truss span, impact damage to the sway bracing, vertical members, and north approach span, and inadequate clearance on the north approach span. She explained that heating and straightening impacted bridge members weakens the members over time. Kitty Henderson suggested that in order to limit impacts to the bridge, an advanced warning sign could be installed before vehicles reached the bridge.

Ms. Benn explained the current options under consideration for the historic SH 332 bridge. She also noted that \$490,000 in federal funding could be applied to relocate the bridge; however, any costs over the \$490,000 would be the responsibility of the entity that assumes ownership of the bridge. She also stated that rehabilitating the bridge for vehicular use is not allowed due to federal funding restrictions. Ms. Edwards asked about liability if someone is injured on the bridge and efforts to keep pedestrians off the bridge. Ms. Milliard explained that the chain link fence has been cut in the past and TxDOT incurred costs to repair the fence, as well as to reinstall no trespassing signs that are continually being stolen. Ms. Edwards also asked what happened between the termination of the three-party agreement and present-day and if the park to the north could be used for the bridge. Ms. Milliard noted that the park to the north of the bridge is on TxDOT's right-of-way (ROW) (some of the ROW is in Brazoria County's name) and TxDOT maintains it. TxDOT conducted outreach to identify an entity that could take ownership of the bridge. Several groups, including Houston Wilderness, expressed interest in the bridge, but the size of the bridge and costs related to rehabilitating and relocating the bridge were prohibitive. As a result, Ms. Milliard explained that TxDOT must reopen the Section 106 process again. Ms. Rhodenbaugh added that preliminary plans to open restaurants on land near the bridge fell through in 2011.

Linda Henderson asked if the bridge's current condition would be better if work had been done to stabilize the bridge in 2004. Ms. Milliard answered that while deterioration continued, the bridge's current condition is relatively the same as it was in 2004. Additionally, due to better technologies to treat rust, cost estimates to repair the rusted sections are less today than in 2004.

5.2. Open Discussion

Ms. Beaubien then opened the meeting to discussion of the options under consideration. Mr. Allen stated that he believes opening the bridge to pedestrian and bike traffic is the only viable option. He also noted that the bridge in its current location is a good asset for the community, as there is no other bridge like it in the southwestern portion of Brazoria County. Mr. Schwebel also agreed that he was in favor of rehabilitating the bridge for pedestrian use. Linda Henderson

suggested that the SHPO would consider modifications to a few of the northern approach spans to address the inadequate clearance and open the bridge to pedestrian traffic. This may also result in a net benefit to the bridge because it would save the trusses while fixing the bridge's functional deficiencies. Kitty Henderson asked if a cost estimate for rehabilitating for pedestrian use was calculated in 2004. Ms. Milliard stated that TxDOT did not calculate a cost estimate for this option because Brazoria County and the City of Brazoria were taking ownership of and responsibility for the bridge. Ms. Milliard estimated that the current cost to paint the bridge is \$2.5 million to \$3 million.

Ms. Beaubien explained that the next step in the project planning process is a public hearing in the future. She asked attendees if there are other groups or organizations to invite to the public hearing. Ms. Rhodenbaugh suggested advertising the hearing in several newspapers including *The Brazosport Facts*, *Brazoria County News*, *The Source*, *The Bulletin*, *Alvin Sun*, *Pearland Report*, and the *Houston Chronicle*. She also suggested inviting Hunter Hobbes who is interested in developing a dirt bike park and has a large distribution list. Mr. Allen suggested inviting cycling groups from the Lake Jackson area. Ms. Beaubien noted that anyone interested in the project is a stakeholder and requested that attendees forward any additional names or organizations to Ms. Benn.

5.3. Meeting Conclusion

Ms. Bergren closed the meeting, explaining that depending on the consultation process and final outcome, it may take a few years to complete the Section 106 process. She noted that the stakeholder meeting is similar to a focus group of organizations and individuals that reflect the community's thoughts and concerns. She stated that TxDOT wants to continue to be good stewards of historic and monetary resources, and it appears that the general consensus from the meeting is to rehabilitate the historic SH 332 bridge for pedestrian use.



Attachment E

Agenda, Handouts, and PowerPoint Presentation

Contents

1. Meeting agenda
2. Project handouts
3. PowerPoint Presentation



**SH 332 Historic Truss Bridge
Stakeholder Meeting
November 16, 2017**

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| I. | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety moment• Purpose of the meeting• Introduce the team and key responsibilities | Michelle Milliard, TxDOT Area Engineer |
| II. | Project Overview Presentation Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project overview | Renee Benn, TxDOT Historic Preservation |
| III. | Stakeholder Discussion Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss issues and key concerns | Julie Beaubien, TxDOT Public Involvement |
| IV. | Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next steps | Michelle Milliard |

Thank you for coming and travel safely.



Historic SH 332 Truss Bridge at the Brazos River

Brazoria, Texas



PROJECT SUMMARY

Welcome to the stakeholder meeting for the historic State Highway 332 truss bridge at the Brazos River in Brazoria! TxDOT would like your input on the proposed options for the historic SH 332 truss bridge moving forward. The options include:

- **No build**
No work or maintenance would be done to the bridge and it would continue to deteriorate
Cost: \$0
- **Rehabilitate the bridge by one of these methods:**
 - ◆ **Keep the bridge for pedestrian use**
Repair work would include cleaning and painting, repairing deteriorated and damaged sections, installing pedestrian railings and ADA-compliant ramps, and raising the north approach span
Cost: \$3.78 million
 - ◆ **Keep the bridge as a monument**
Bridge would be closed to vehicles and pedestrians, extensive repair work would be completed, and one or more of the north approach spans would be removed
Cost: \$3.24 million to \$3.29 million
 - ◆ **Move the bridge to a park or trail**
Extensive repairs to the bridge would be completed and the bridge would only be used for pedestrians
Cost: \$1.2 million to relocate only one truss, recipient of bridge would be responsible for all costs over \$490,000.
- **Demolish the historic SH 332 truss bridge**
Cost: \$490,000

**All alternatives avoid potential effects to the Pioneer Cemetery. Due to FHWA funding restrictions, reopening the SH 332 bridge to vehicular use is not allowed.*

PROJECT HISTORY

- 2004: TxDOT completed an Environmental Assessment for the construction of the new SH 332 bridge at the Brazos River. The city of Brazoria and Brazoria County agree in 2004 to take ownership of the historic truss bridge.
- 2010: The construction of the new SH 332 bridge was complete and the historic SH 332 truss bridge was removed from service.
- 2011: Brazoria County transfers responsibilities for the bridge back to TxDOT.
- 2016-2017: TxDOT conducted an alternatives analysis to determine options for the historic SH 332 truss bridge.

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The purpose of the project is to determine an appropriate alternative for the historic SH 332 truss bridge considering its current condition and funding options.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA TxDOT

SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470) requires that agencies “take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and afford...a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings” (36 CFR 800.1). Section 106 applies to archeological resources and non-archeological historic resources (such as buildings or bridges). Under Section 106, TxDOT must:

- Identify and document archeological and non-archeological historic resources that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and resources that may be listed in the NRHP.
- Evaluate archeological and non-archeological historic resources to determine if they are eligible for listing in the NRHP.
- Assess potential effects of the proposed project on properties eligible for or listed in the NRHP.
- Consider ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to NRHP-eligible or NRHP-listed properties.
- Consult with the public about findings.

QUESTIONS?

Visit our website:

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/sh-332-truss-bridge.html>

Get in touch with us:

- Renee Benn
TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division – Historical Studies



- Christine Bergren
TxDOT Houston District



- Michelle Milliard
TxDOT Brazoria Area Engineer



ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

As part of the proposed project for the historic SH 332 truss bridge at the Brazos River, TxDOT archeologists completed extensive studies over several years to determine if there were any significant archeological resources within the project area.

These studies were conducted to ensure compliance with several regulations, including but not limited to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Texas Antiquities Code. A summary of TxDOT's archeological investigations is below.

ARCHEOLOGICAL STUDIES SUMMARY

- From 1998 to 2002, TxDOT completed land-based and underwater surveys for archeological resources within the project area for the SH 332 historic truss bridge.
- The Pioneer Cemetery to the south of the SH 332 historic truss bridge and east of SH 332 was the only archeological resource determined eligible for the NRHP within the project area.
- TxDOT found no other NRHP-eligible archeological resources within the project area, including shipwrecks, ferry landings, or docking facilities in the Brazos River.
- TxDOT consulted with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), county officials, members of the local African American community, the Brazos County Historical Commission's Cemetery Committee, lawyers from the Attorney General's office, and members of the



Pioneer Cemetery

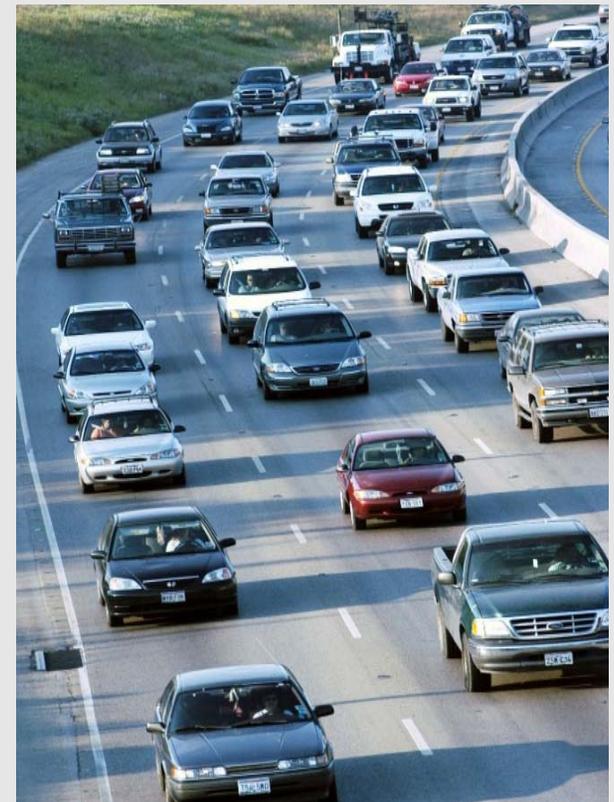
public about Pioneer Cemetery and the graves found within the cemetery and TxDOT's right-of-way.

- In 2003 and 2008-2009, as a result of these consultations, TxDOT relocated a total of 16 graves that were in TxDOT's right-of-way.
- The current proposed project does not impact the Pioneer Cemetery.



HISTORIC SH 332 TRUSS BRIDGE STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Brazoria, Texas



SH 332 Historic Truss Bridge – Meeting Agenda

1	Welcome and Introductions	3
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3	Discussion	17
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Welcome! Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Provide an overview of the project
- Discuss impacts to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed bridge
- Provide a discussion opportunity for feedback on the proposed project

**Public involvement is a key ingredient in
our planning process.**

*A comment form has been provided to you for your
convenience. If you do not have one, please ask a
team member.*

INTRODUCTIONS

Project Background

Historic SH 332

Truss Bridge:

- Built in 1939
- Includes three truss spans and 14 approach spans
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1991



Project Background, Continued

- In 2004, the Environmental Assessment document included an agreement that the city and county would preserve the historic SH 332 truss bridge
- In 2010, TxDOT completed the new SH 332 vehicular bridge and took the historic SH 332 truss bridge out of service
- In 2011 Brazoria County transferred bridge responsibilities to TxDOT



Need and Purpose: 2004

Need:

- Deterioration of the existing roadway and historic truss bridge
- Structural deficiency of the existing historic truss bridge
- Maintenance of the existing historic truss bridge
- FM 521 intersection problems
- Hurricane evacuation
- Safety

Purpose:

- To improve roadway conditions, reduce maintenance, and improve mobility by widening SH 332, constructing a new bridge at the Brazos River, and redesigning the FM 521 intersection.

Need and Purpose: 2011 - 2017

- In 2010 TxDOT removed traffic from the truss bridge
- From 2011-2017, TxDOT re-evaluated needs and conditions and these needs were met by construction of the new SH 332 bridge:
 - Deterioration of the existing roadway and bridge
 - FM 521 intersection problems
 - Hurricane evacuation

Need and Purpose: 2011 - 2017

- Current purpose and need:
 - Maintenance of the historic SH 332 truss bridge
 - Structural deficiency of the historic SH 332 truss bridge
 - Improve safety
 - The purpose of the project is to determine a long-term and appropriate disposition and maintenance plan for the historic SH 332 truss bridge.

Need and Purpose: 2011 - 2017



Photo shows damage to north approach span from vehicles hitting bridge

Section Loss and Paint Failure



Photo shows deterioration of the steel in the bottom chord of the truss

Impact Damage on Sway Bracing



Photo shows damage to sway bracing from vehicles hitting bridge

Impact Damage to Vertical Member

Photo shows damage to vertical member from vehicles hitting bridge



Inadequate Vertical Clearance



Inadequate vertical clearance over the access road on the bridge's north end

Truss and Adjacent North Approach Span Separation



Photo shows separation between the truss and one of the north approach spans

Historic Bridge Options

- No build
- Fix the historic SH 332 truss bridge by one of these methods:
 - Keep for pedestrian use
 - Keep as a monument
 - Move to a park or trail
- Demolish the historic SH 332 truss bridge

**Due to FHWA funding restrictions, reopening the bridge to vehicular use is not allowed for this bridge.

DISCUSSION

Next Steps

- Document and consider feedback – through 2018
- Plan/Conduct the Public Hearing – Winter 2018
- Select the bridge alternative – Spring 2018
- Communicate to the public throughout process

Contact Information

Visit our website and give us your input on the online comment form!

<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/houston/sh-332-truss-bridge.html>

Get in touch with us!

- Renee Benn
TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division – Historical Studies

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- Christine Bergren
TxDOT Houston District

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- Michelle Milliard
TxDOT Brazoria Area Engineer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]