

**Proposed Bridge Replacement at Mile 1315.0 on the Missouri River near Bismarck/Mandan, North
Dakota (ND SHPO Reference 16-0636)**

Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting #14

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

2:00 pm CST

Go-To Meeting and Dial-in

Attendees:

Aaron Barth
Abby Korte
Adam Nies
Aimee Angel
Alexis Clark
Amy McBeth
Amy Sakariassen
Ben Ehreth
Bill Peterson
Brian Dunn
Chris Wilson
Cole Higlin
David Mayer
Elizabeth Merritt
Emily Sakariassen
Fern Swenson
Jim Neubauer
Kathy Duttenhefner
Kathye Spilman
Lori Price
Lorna Meidinger
Matt Robertson
Mayor Steve Bakken
Mike Herzog
Mitch Flanagan
Nathan Loftice

Nick Bradbury
Rob McCaskey
Shelly Sugarman
Stephanie Swanson
Susan Wefald
Toni Erhardt

- Rob McCaskey (USCG) introduced the meeting and set ground rules.
- This meeting is for the purpose of reviewing the Top 10 Mitigation Ideas, ranked by the Consulting Parties, for use in the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which serves as the mitigation plan for the Programmatic Agreement (PA) that was executed on January 15, 2021.
- Participants introduced themselves.
- Brian Dunn stated his appreciation to everyone for participating in and completing execution of the Programmatic Agreement. Mr. Dunn covered the history of development of the mitigation measures, ranked by voting, and the rules of engagement. Mr. Dunn reminded all participants that there is no federal funding attached to this project.
- Rob introduced each mitigation measure, and the responsible party then explained it, followed by discussion.

Mitigation Measures:

1. Provide funding of \$(amount) for the development of a multi-use trail(s) on both east and west sides of the Missouri River, along with emergency stations and interpretative displays/signs at points of interest, as well as public art, preserving the memory of the Bismarck Bridge. Include funds for ongoing maintenance of these trails and associated amenities. (Combines 2 suggested strategies, formerly #1 and #3 in ranking).
 - Proposed by City of Bismarck.
 - Ben Ehreth spoke for the City. Noted this was meant to apply whether the historic bridge remains or is removed, and that the City had submitted this for the PA. He had no suggestions on funding or further details on the mitigation suggestion, but Bismarck would not be funding it and would not be the point of contact. Also noted that this was combined with someone else's mitigation idea, and that the City had not included "west side" of the river in their original idea. The City has a process they have to go through that makes meeting short timelines challenging, and prevents the staff from fleshing out these ideas further on their own. He can't speak for the City beyond what the Preservation Commission and City has approved. Also made a correction that this was not the County Commission, only the City.
 - Mayor Steve Bakken stated that the City of Bismarck will not be involved in development or funding of the mitigation measure in any way.
2. Develop, in consultation with Preservation North Dakota and the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission, interpretive signage content that illustrates, as comprehensively as possible, the significance of the Bismarck Bridge under all Criteria for which it is eligible, and that acknowledges the varied historic and cultural values of the community and its relationship to

the bridge. Install one of these signs on the east side of the new bridge and one on the west side of the new bridge.

- Proposed by FORB and Preservation North Dakota.
 - Emily Sakariassen of PND made a ppt presentation, followed by a brief part of the presentation by Signe Snortland of FORB. (Presentation attached).
 - Chris Wilson reminded the participants that this project does not have federal funding and said he would be glad to contact Ms. Snortland and explain the ACHP guidance she was using. Ms. Snortland welcomed that.
3. FORB recommends that if BNSF would donate the historic bridge along with funds budgeted for bridge demolition to the Public Private Partnership, this would be adequate mitigation of the adverse effects of construction of a new bridge beside the historic bridge.
- Proposed by FORB.
 - FORB made a ppt presentation (attached) and noted there was further information on this in the feasibility study they'd had done.
 - Mike Herzog of BNSF stated this is not feasible and it's unclear whether the bridge can be donated or have a no-fee lease.
4. Develop comprehensive documentation that records the Bismarck Bridge (combines 4 suggested strategies, formerly #3, #5, #7 and #8). Documentation strategies may include:
1. Photographic documentation of the Bismarck Bridge in color photographs - City of Bismarck; Bismarck Historical Society.
 - City reiterated their earlier comments. Bismarck Historical Society was not present.
 - Chris Wilson stated that Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation should be the minimum required, and should be done regardless of whether the historic bridge is retained or removed.
 - Lorna Meidinger/SHPO said that HAER does not accept color photography. HAER is a very proscribed format. Color photos could still be done as documentation, but not as part of HAER.
 2. Aerial photographs obtained by drone or similar means - City of Bismarck
 3. Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Documentation (Level of documentation to be determined through consultation with input from National Park Service) - City of Bismarck; SHPO
 4. 3-D scan of the Bismarck Bridge for conversion into a 3-D model. City of Bismarck
 5. Record a video with color, digital, time lapse photos of the removal of the historic Bismarck Bridge and the construction of the new replacement bridge. The video/time lapse photos shall be made available via electronic media (for example, CD or external drive). Provide one copy of the completed video/time lapse photos to the North Dakota SHPO and offer a copy to the Bismarck Historical Society, Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society, FORB, Mandan Historical Society, Morton County Historical Society, North Dakota State Railroad Museum, Preservation North Dakota, and the North Dakota State University library system within sixty (60) calendar days of final acceptance of the new bridge by BNSF. City of Bismarck; Bismarck Historical Society
5. If Bismarck Bridge approaches are found to be eligible, mitigation for their removal will be needed. If the USCG's bridge permit requires that BNSF retain the existing Bismarck Bridge, only the three truss

structures and the four stone piers will be retained. The proposed action will remove the approaches even if the historic trusses remain so that BNSF can ensure pedestrian separation from BNSF active right-of-way and the new rail bridge.

- Proposed by FORB.
 - FORB presented a ppt (attached).
6. Provide funding of \$(amount) to document the history of the Bismarck Bridge and its impact on the region and nation for presentation as a museum exhibit. As part of this effort, fund a qualified historian as defined in Stipulation III to write a comprehensive history of the bridge. This comprehensive history should include the impact of the railroad and bridge on Native Americans and their descendants.
- Proposed by City of Bismarck.
 - Ben Ehreth for the City says this should apply to both scenarios. BNSF should fund it. Suggests maybe combining #6 and #10.
7. Develop a permanent interpretive installation at the North Dakota Railroad Museum in Mandan, including interpretive panels that discuss the history of the bridge, an exhibit that includes portions of the bridge, and a series of professionally produced video documentaries (10-15 minutes in length) on:
- 1) the history of Bismarck prior to construction of the bridge;
 - 2) the history of the selection of the final bridge crossing point and its ramifications (halted land speculation) on the west riverbank and the final location of the City of Mandan;
 - 3) the historic Bismarck Bridge;
 - 4) the new bridge design and construction. Make a monetary donation of \$(amount) to purchase viewing equipment for the video series. Cost of installation to be no less than \$(amount) and no more than \$(amount).
- Proposed by Mandan Historical Society/Kathye Spilman.
 - Ms. Spilman noted this should be two separate issues.
 - ND Railroad museum wants sections of bridge for an outdoor exhibit. They are willing to donate land. They would like rockers or bearing, rivets, rails, sections. Perhaps one truss, maybe a piece of pier with ice breaker.
 - The Mandan Historical Society would like maybe one 20-minute video. It could be widely distributed to all who want it; could be posted on internet, etc. Estimated cost is \$2500/min for video = \$50,000. Interpretive panels are about \$2000 each.
8. Prepare NRHP nomination for the Bismarck Bridge and submit to National Park Service for listing (see MOA Stipulation I.A.).
- Proposed by SHPO
 - Lorna Meidinger said BNSF should pay for this. It would only be if bridge remains. Process should start as soon as ROD is made, once we know bridge is being kept, so FORB could benefit from additional grant opportunities. May take a year to do nomination.
9. Provide funds of \$(amount) to the Bismarck Historical Society, Mandan Historical Society, and/or Northern Plains Heritage Foundation/Northern Plains National Heritage Area to allow these local history repositories and interpreters opportunities to conduct necessary additional research (if any) to prepare interpretive presentations (written, audible and/or visual) to accompany bridge-related exhibits (static and/or mobile) if they choose to design, equip, construct and maintain such exhibits by agency staff or by contract.

- Proposed by Bismarck Historical Society; NTHP added “Northern Plains Heritage Foundation/Northern Plains National Heritage Area”
- As there was no representation for this idea, it was delayed to next meeting.

10. Develop a 5,000-square-foot travelling exhibit to be on display at various locations including, but not limited to, the Heritage Center Museum in Bismarck that tells the history of the Bridge; and create a student send trunk for use in public schools throughout the state that could offer three potential focuses:

- 1) the design, construction and engineering aspects of the Bismarck Bridge’s historic significance as it relates to STEM curricula,
- 2) the cultural and historic significance of the Bismarck Bridge in the role the railroad played in the displacement of Native indigenous people and the settlement of the American West— themes taught in the North Dakota Studies curricula, and
- 3) the importance of place identity in understanding history and heritage as learned from the historic preservation movement, teaching with historic places based on North Dakota sites listed in the NRHP and geared toward history, social studies, and geography curricula.

Cost of exhibit to be no less than \$(amount) and no more than \$(amount). (SHPO: rough estimate for this project is \$500,000.)

- Proposed by Preservation North Dakota
- Emily Sakariassen gave a ppt presentation (attached). Exhibit doesn’t need to be 5000 sq ft. Former student trunks have been retired.
- Kathye Spilman says she thinks the traveling exhibit through SHPO may be discontinued.
- Bill Peterson/SHPO says he’s not sure but will check. This could be possibly combined with #6 – City’s exhibit. SHPO says they would support it/collaborate.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:04 CST.