

APPENDIX C

Connecticut DOT's Preservation Plan for the Black Road Bridge

BRIDGE NO. 4434

Black Bridge Road over West Branch Farmington River, New Hartford

Description: 1936, steel Warren pony truss, 2 spans; fabricated by Berlin Construction Co.

Similar Structures in Preservation Plan:

Trusses, 1921 and Later: 1496, 3788, 562, 1649, 1524, 1487, 1561, 507, 1415, 349

Warren Trusses, 1921 and Later: 562, 1487, 1524

Berlin Construction Co. Trusses, 1921 and Later: 1524, 1561

Historical Significance: Typifies truss bridge construction of the automotive age; built by the town after the flood of 1936 destroyed the prior bridge, and paid for by the U.S. Works Progress Administration. Berlin Construction was the state's only significant bridge fabricator in the 20th century.

Preservation Planning:

General Considerations: The bridge is closed to vehicular traffic. Alternative crossings are available approximately three-quarter mile upstream and two miles downstream. Roadway width is 17'.

Structural Rehabilitation: Selective patching and in-kind replacement of members would not compromise the structure's historic integrity.

Bypass: Lack of adjacent buildings makes total bypass or lane division possible. Total bypass should be accompanied by some provision for maintenance of the historic bridge.

Widening/Secondary Structure: If a new structural system were inserted below the deck, the historic trusses can remain in place at the sides; the outer portion (one to two feet) of the floor beams, including the floor joints, should be retained both to preserve the historic fabric and to hide the new material.

Relocation: The spans are each 84' long, allowing relocation to park or trail use. The local historical context would be lost, but the intrinsic significance of the bridge, both as a typical structure of its time and the work of Berlin Construction, would outweigh that consideration.