

APPENDIX F

North Carolina and Texas DOT's Historic Bridge Marketing Programs

NCDOT HISTORIC BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) established a program for the preservation of the state's historic metal truss bridges in 1978-79. The results of a statewide inventory and evaluation of metal truss bridges, sponsored jointly by NCDOT and the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, were recorded in *North Carolina's Metal Truss Bridges: An Inventory and Evaluation*, published in 1979. Subsequent to the publication, thirty-four metal truss bridges were determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

NCDOT's Historic Bridge Preservation Program is a pro-active program designed to develop preservation strategies and alternatives to demolition for metal truss bridges scheduled for replacement. Among the strategies employed by NCDOT are donation of bridges with protective covenants to new owners, assistance with disassembly and relocation as part of project costs, disassembly and storage in a NCDOT bridge yard if a new owner cannot be identified during the project, and preservation in place. For both eligible and non-eligible bridges, NCDOT actively seeks recipients through advertisements both in and out of state and maintains a directory of individuals and organizations interested in obtaining a bridge.

While it is necessary to replace metal truss bridges which have become functionally obsolete and cannot be maintained to meet design standards, NCDOT through its bridge preservation program has actively sought alternatives to demolition for the state's historic metal truss bridges. NCDOT is committed to preserving North Carolina's historic metal truss bridges.

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TxDOT's Historic Bridge Marketing Program

In the market for a historic truss bridge? If so, you may be interested to know more about TxDOT's historic bridge marketing program. Before TxDOT removes old historic truss bridges from state highways, county roads and city streets, the state markets these antique metal spans to the public for use at new locations. Limited federal monies are available on a reimbursable basis to help cover relocation expenses.

Bridges acquired through the program can be used for almost any purpose (except to serve vehicular traffic on a public roadway). During the past 10 years, recipients have moved more than 20 truss spans to golf courses, recreation parks, hike-and-bike trails, pedestrian walkways, and private roads.

All trusses are offered on an "as is" basis. Most of the marketed spans are relatively lightweight and can be moved in one piece, with no disassembly required. A typical truss weighs 10 to 15 tons (without the deck), and is 50 to 150 feet long and 10 to 18 foot wide.

TxDOT markets truss bridges at various time throughout the year. When a truss bridge becomes available, TxDOT sends out bridge information packages to the individuals and entities on its bridge marketing mailing list. Each of the bridge information packages contains detailed location and structural information on the truss span, as well as instructions for preparing a bridge re-use proposal. If more than one proposal is received, TxDOT then evaluates the proposals in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission. Uses that keep a bridge accessible to public and that are sensitive to the bridge's historic fabric are given preference in the selection process.

If you want to add your name to TxDOT's historic bridge marketing list, you can contact the program administrator at Bstockli@mailgw.dot.state.tx.us or at (512) 416-2628. In the future, we plan to feature information on marketed trusses at this location, so stay tuned!

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