

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HISTORIC BRIDGE MARKETING PROGRAM

As part of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) Historic Bridge Management Program, ODOT, in cooperation with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), ODOT has established a bridge marketing program as part of an effort to find parties willing to accept, relocate and maintain historic bridges that are being replaced with new, modern structures. This effort provides an alternative to demolition of the State's historic bridges when they are replaced with safe, modern structures. The bridges have been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, in most cases because they are representative examples of certain types of steel truss bridges. Many of the smaller truss bridges are ideal for light pedestrian use along trails or in public parks.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

The bridge will be donated to any party willing and able to relocate and maintain it at a new location. Proposals to relocate the structure will be reviewed by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, and the Federal Highway Administration. The review often includes visitation to the new location by ODOT personnel. Preference will be given to applicants whose proposals clearly demonstrate an ability and commitment to complete the relocation in a timely manner. Preference will also be given to proposals that will provide public access to the structure and commit to preserving historic integrity of the bridge. All proposals must clearly describe and specify the following:

- the exact location of the new site
- the exact use to which the bridge will be put at the new site, particularly emphasizing how this use will benefit the public of Oklahoma and Historic Preservation
- the exact procedures for disassembling, moving, and rebuilding the structure
- all known public and private parties that will contribute to, or benefit by, the relocation
- a detailed estimate of the expense and time required to complete the relocation.

Federal Highway Administration rules prohibit use of the structure as a vehicular bridge on a public roadway. If light-duty vehicular use is desired, the bridge must be placed on a

route which does not directly connect with a public road. The Federal Highway Administration will reserve the right to reject any proposals for vehicular use of the structure. Use of the bridge for pedestrians, animals, and non-motorized vehicles only is strongly recommended. All proposals must clearly demonstrate that the applicants possess, or have access to, the financial and engineering backing required to complete the project in a reasonable period of time. The Department reserves the right to reject without further consideration any proposal that does not adequately address the above requirements. To be considered, each applicant must submit a written statement of interest to the Department of Transportation no later than the deadline for statements of interest for each bridge, followed by a formal detailed proposal no later than 45 days from deadline for statements of interest.

All expenses incurred in relocating and rebuilding the bridge at a new site shall be the sole responsibility of the recipient. The recipient must also assume full ownership and liability for the structure at the new site.

The schedule for transferring ownership of the bridge to the successful applicant will be dependent on the schedule for the bridge replacement project. Once ownership is transferred, the applicant must assume sole liability for the structure, including any mishaps that might occur during removal, transportation, re-erection, and subsequent use. The successful applicant must also agree to assume responsibility for the bridge in its existing condition, including any and all structural deficiencies. The applicant may not hold County Commissioners, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, or any of their authorized agents responsible for any unanticipated costs needed to repair these deficiencies. In the event the structure becomes damaged or destroyed during removal, transport, and re-erection operations, the applicant will be solely responsible for any repairs or removal of structural debris.

Any questions regarding this project should be directed to the ODOT Cultural Resources Program, Anna Eddings at 405-325-8665 or Robert Bartlett at 405-325-7201.

Please send all correspondence to the following address:

Dawn Sullivan, P.E.
Environmental Programs Division Engineer
Oklahoma Department of Transportation
200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105