

# Protection of Cultural Resources

## Section 106 Process

One of the key environmental factors that must be considered in an Environmental Assessment (EA) is **cultural resources**. The study team uses a systematic process to identify these resources, evaluate potential impacts to them, and determine what action will be taken to eliminate or mitigate those impacts.

For cultural resources, this is commonly referred to as the **Section 106 Process**. Section 106 is named after the portion of the National Historic Preservation Act that requires agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties.

Cultural resources investigations for the project have involved researching the history of the project area and surveying various types of cultural resources in the project's area of potential effects (APE) to consider the presence of historic buildings, historic/prehistoric archaeological sites, and historic structures. The study has identified two historic properties -- the Fairfax Bridge and the Platte Purchase Bridge. The study team is consulting with both the Kansas and Missouri State Historic Preservation Offices, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Federal Highway Administration, and welcomes input from others interested in historic preservation to consider project effects on these historic properties. Please express your views regarding the project impacts to the historic bridges and ideas for their future by providing public comments.

Historic properties are defined as:

***Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure or object included in or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).***

This includes artifacts, records, and material remains related to such properties. Some examples include national and local historic landmarks, Native American and pioneer cemeteries, prehistoric settlements, and architecturally significant structures and buildings.

It is the specific policy of the United States Government that:

***Special efforts be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public parks and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites of the United States.***

The U.S. 69 Bridges EA follows the four step process to determine and address any potential impacts to cultural resources.

**1**

### Establish Area of Potential Effects (APE)

The study corridor for the U.S. 69 Bridges Over the Missouri River EA extends from I-635 south to Kindleberger Road. The APE includes an additional 100 feet on both sides of the study corridor in order to examine the potential effects of the project on architectural resources due to the proximity of proposed improvements. This establishes the area on which the Reasonable Alternatives might have an impact on cultural resources.

**2**

### Identify Resources and their Significance

Data and field research is conducted to identify cultural resources within the APE. Their significance or potential significance is documented and discussed with staff of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and others interested in cultural resources, potentially including tribal governments.

**3**

### Determination of Effects

The study team determines how the Reasonable Alternatives might affect cultural resources within the APE. If a resource is adversely affected, options for eliminating or mitigating those effects are proposed.

**4**

### Resolve Adverse Effects

The study team works with the SHPO, other relevant state and federal agencies, and consults with the public to determine the best course of action for resolving adverse effects on historic properties.

Additional information on historic preservation and the Section 106 process can be found at <http://www.modot.org/ehp/HistoricPreservation.htm>

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## Historic Fairfax and Platte Purchase Bridges

The historic Fairfax Bridge was constructed in 1935. The bridge is a Warren through truss design spanning a total length of 2,595 feet. The Fairfax Bridge carries U.S. 69 traffic southbound across the Missouri River into the Fairfax Industrial District in Kansas City, Kansas. The Fairfax Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Constructed in 1957, the historic Platte Purchase Bridge expanded the transportation corridor, providing an important auxiliary crossing to accommodate greater traffic and promote the local economy. The 2,602-foot long Platte Purchase Bridge, carrying northbound traffic, has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Similar in their materials, scale, and form, both bridges serve as monumental examples of steel truss, major river crossings and their cantilevered, camelback Warren through trusses represent a distinct bridge type.

No other resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places have been identified within the area of potential effects (APE). Eligible resources adjacent to the APE will not be affected by the proposed action.

