

Washington Bridge (No. K0969)

Construction of a new bridge over the Missouri River at Washington may have an "adverse effect" on existing historic Bridge K0969, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Bridge K0969 is a steel, five-span rigid-connected cantilever through truss with a Warren web and Warren deck truss approaches. It measures 2,562 feet in length with a roadway width of 22 feet. The substructure consists of concrete abutments and spill-through piers with Moderne detailing. Built 1934-36 by the Missouri State Highway Department (MSHD), it is considered a superlative example of large-scale truss bridge construction at an important crossing of the Missouri River. Undertaken during the Great Depression, it was one of a series of great river bridges built in the state during the 1920s and 1930s. Similar structures included the Mark Twain Memorial Bridge, the Hermann Bridge, and the Miami Bridge. (Clayton Fraser, Missouri Historic Bridge Inventory, 1996).



A Programmatic Agreement for Historic Bridges in Missouri was signed on October 3, 2003, and obliges all parties (Federal Highway Administration, Missouri Department of Transportation, the State Historic Preservation Office and the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation) to explore alternatives for bridge preservation.

An "adverse effect" to the historic bridge will require, at a minimum, a two-party MOA for mitigation in the form of archival photographs and historic documentation to be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for curation. Also, the FHWA may be asked to approve a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation for the bridge. Additional mitigation measures will be discussed in consultation with the SHPO and FHWA.

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