Historic Bridges and Projects

When MoDOT projects will affect historic bridges, the agency must consider alternatives that will minimize or avoid affecting the bridge. These alternatives could include bridge rehabilitation instead of replacement, highway realignment, or using the historic bridge to carry one-lane of traffic and constructing a new bridge to carry the other lane.

If it is not possible to avoid or minimize the effects of the project, MoDOT must mitigate the effect of the project. Mitigation of the resource should be appropriate to the size and significance of the resource.

Consulting parties are a vital part of determining appropriate mitigation that will be beneficial to the community.

Mitigation can include:

- Archival-quality photographs that show the bridge in overview and in detail shots.
- A historical narrative that explains the history and significance of the bridge.
- Wayside exhibits for placement in parks or traffic pull-offs.
- Short videos and other creative ideas.

Federal law requires that historic bridges be made available for reuse either in place or for relocation. Historic bridges can be reused for vehicular traffic either on public or private roads, on trails or in parks. (See Bridge Map for examples).

Bridges are given away, to a recipient who agrees to assume all future legal and financial responsibility for the bridge. Features that make the bridge important must also be preserved.

The easiest way to find out what is currently available is through the Free Bridges web-site:

http://www.modot.org/freebridges/

For helpful information on saving a historic bridge see the Historic Bridge Foundation website:

http://historicbridgefoundation.com/save-a-bridge/
The bridges listed on this map have been chosen as examples of bridges eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For the detailed location of each bridge, see Bridgehunter.com.