

Austin Avenue Bridges Project – Walking Tour

Agenda

Event	Start	End
Introductions and Overview	9:00	
Environmental Process		
Section 106 and Consulting Parties		
Historic Significance of Bridges		
Project Background		
Bridge Components		
Bridge Conditions		9:30
Depart for walking tour/Arrive Blue Hole	9:40	
Station 1 – Overview, Components, Structural Deficiencies		
Walk		
Station 2 – Functional Obsolescence, Safety		
Walk		
Return to Light and Waterworks Building for Q&A		11:00



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GEORGETOWN, TEXAS



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Environmental Process

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act



Texas. Department of Transportation. [South San Gabriel River Bridge on U.S. Highway 81]. Photograph, July 9, 1940; (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth167288/>; accessed March 16, 2016).



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Section 106 and Consulting Parties



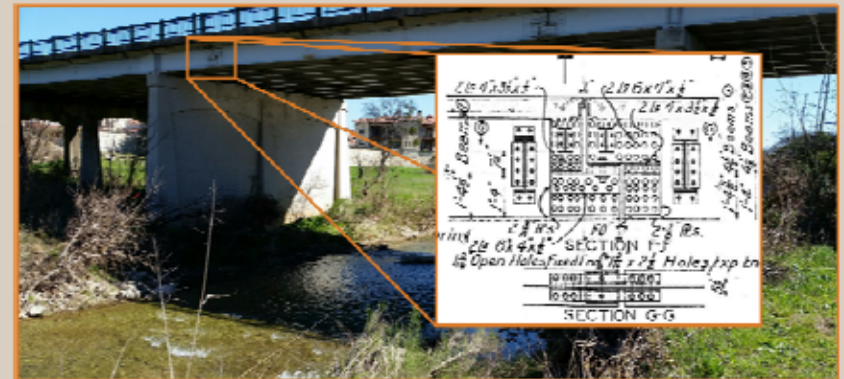
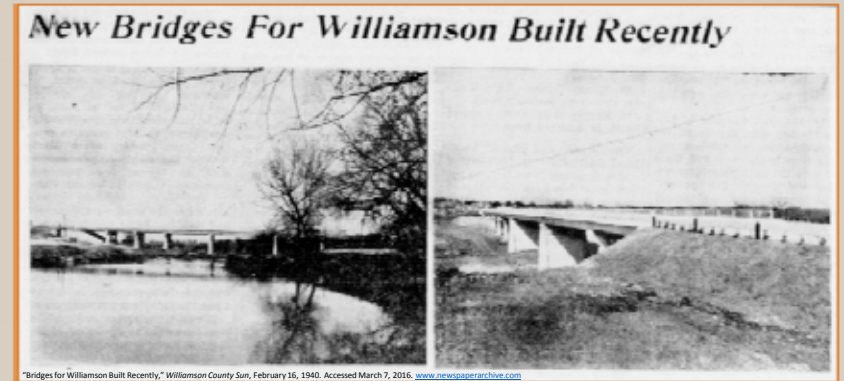
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Historic Significance

- Constructed in 1940
- 1999 NRHP eligibility determination
- Cantilevered-suspended span configuration
 - Independent steel unit between cantilevered arms
 - Riveted notched beam seats
- Advantage of configuration
- Other noted significant features of bridges



Riveted Notched Beam Seats



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Overview

- 1940** Construction of bridges is completed, Cantilevered-suspended span configuration, advantage of configuration was that it enabled bridge to have significantly longer span and thinner deck, reducing the number of supports needed
- 1999** Bridges determined eligible for listing in National Register of Historic Places
- 2000** TxDOT presented design for bridge replacement: City Council declined replacement
- 2007** Maintenance responsibility passed from TxDOT to the City of Georgetown
- 2013** TxDOT issues a load restriction per standard Bridge Inventory, Inspection and Appraisal Program (BRINSAP)
- 2014** Fallen debris found under the south bridge; City initiates condition assessment and life-cycle analysis
- 2015** TxDOT confirms need for load restriction per standard BRINSAP evaluations

BRINSAP: Bridge Inventory Inspection and Appraisal Program – conducted every 1-2 years depending on a structure's age and condition.



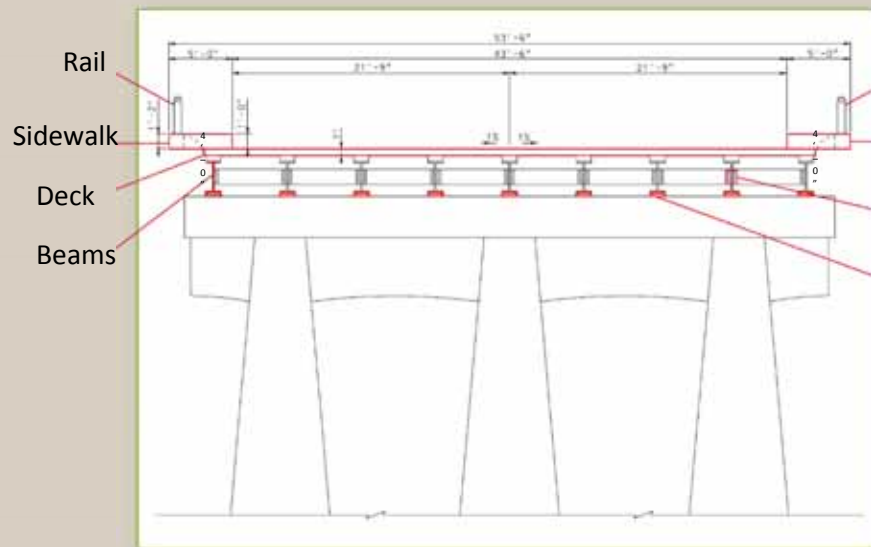
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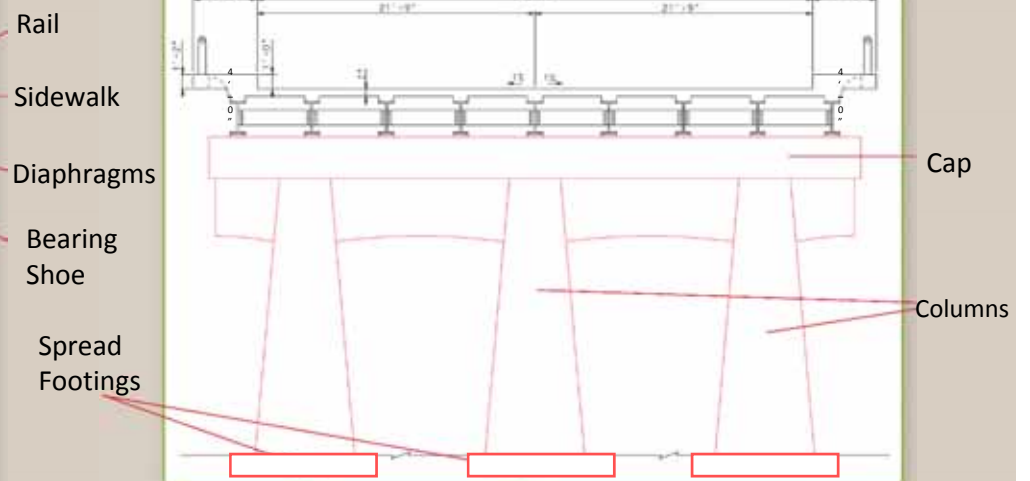
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COMPONENTS

SUPERSTRUCTURE (TOP PORTION OF BRIDGE)



SUBSTRUCTURE (SUPPORTING STRUCTURE)



- Bents, Abutments, and Header Slopes



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Structural Deficiencies

- Bridge is 76 years old and typical design life is 75 years
- Bearings (what the beams sit on) have deteriorated.
 - The bearings are “locked up” and do not currently allow the bridge to “breathe” (expand, contract), causing spalling at joints
- Steel beams have corroded/rusted over time due to exposure to water coming through the deck joints. Top of beams under deck
- Based on inspections, load restricted to 48,000 lbs (garbage trucks, 18 wheelers)
 - No enforcement and heavy loads accelerate deterioration but do not pose imminent danger
- Maintenance to date includes: hardware cloth wraps, remediate lead and repaint, oak bearing blocks (6m), joint patches and curb repairs (above)



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Functionally Obsolete / Safety

- Roadway classified as a Principal Arterial with an AADT of 13-19k
- Current lane width is 11', desirable is 12'
- Sidewalk width 4' min, 6' desirable, 5' min for wheelchair w/companion or 2 side by side, 8-10' for shared used (bike/ped)
- Lacking a 2' minimum offset from the edge of travel way to pedestrian elements (consider traffic above and a 2015 growth rate of 6.8%)
- City has covered sidewalk joints - no opening larger than 0.5" dia (walkers, crutches, etc), perpendicular to travel
- Curb and joint fragments create a hazard to vehicles and pedestrians
- Railing is not to current ADA or crash standards
- Today's needs are not met - no reliable trail connections to N and S San Gabriel



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Depart for Walking Tour



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Share Your Input on the Austin Avenue Bridges

Share Input on the Project

Take a survey here or access it from home via the project website: <http://AustinAve.Georgetown.org>

Share the survey link with those that might be interested.

Share general comments on a comment card or send them to us via email at: AustinAve@georgetown.org

Leave your comments on the project maps.

Share your Photos and Stories!

Do you have any photos or stories of the Austin Avenue Bridges? We would like to catalog these as a part of this project!

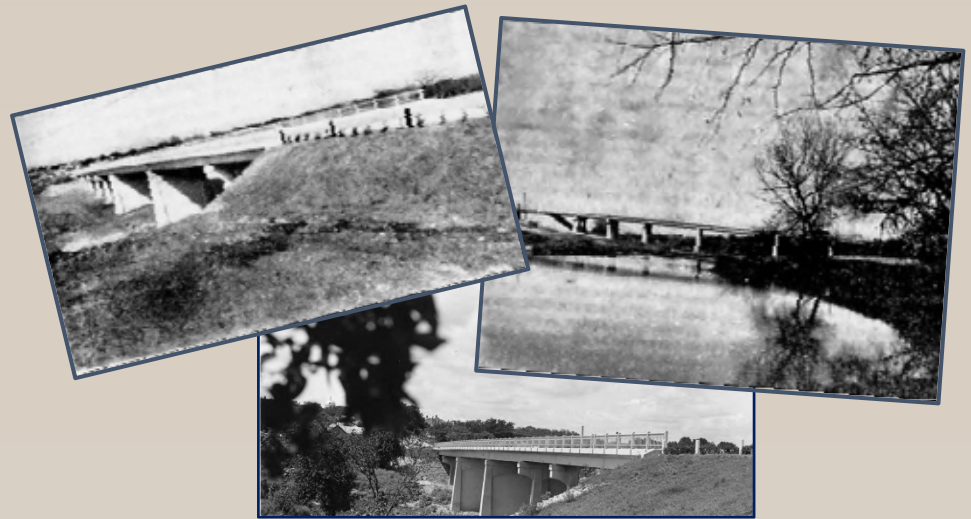
Send your photos to the team or use these hashtags to submit on social media:

[#georgetownxbridges](#)

[#austinavebridges](#)

[#austinavegeorgetown](#)

[#georgetowntx](#)



"Bridges for Williamson Built Recently," Williamson County Sun, February 16, 1940. Accessed March 7, 2016. www.newspaperarchive.com



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