



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ARDOT.gov | IDriveArkansas.com | Lorie H. Tudor, P.E., Director

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2281 | Fax: 501.569.2009

March 24, 2021

RE: Historic Bridge M1581
Job Number 061614
Wattensaw Bayou & Relief
 Strs. & Apprs. (S)
Prairie County
Historic Bridge Marketing Request

To Whom It May Concern:

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) is planning to replace Bridge Number M1581 (Wattensaw Bayou Bridge) on Highway 86 in Prairie County. This bridge was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) through consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer's staff in March 2021. A location map and further information about the bridge is enclosed.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, 23 USC § 144 (g)(5) states: "Any State which proposes to demolish a historic bridge for a replacement project ... shall first make the bridge available for donation to a State, locality, or responsible private entity..." As part of the mitigation process, the ARDOT offers to donate Bridge Number M1581 to any government or entity that demonstrates a willingness to accept title for, maintain in place, preserve the historic features of, and assume the financial responsibility for the continued maintenance on the structure.

The ARDOT, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), can reimburse costs associated with preservation up to the demolition estimate expense for bridges preserved in place. The demolition estimated reimbursement will be determined by the FHWA, not to exceed 100% of the costs of demolition of the bridge, which will be based on the estimate by ARDOT. The costs associated with preservation could include rehabilitation of the bridge or minor modifications for recreational use.

If you are interested in acquiring this bridge, please respond with a letter of interest addressed to me within 45 days from this letter's date. Such letter submission does not commit an entity to accept the bridge. Following its receipt, the ARDOT Historic Bridge Analysis Committee will request a preservation plan, including required information for consideration, before a preferred recipient is selected. For further information, contact Nikki Senn at (501) 569-2979 or at Nikki.Senn@ardot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Fleming
Division Head
Environmental Division

JF:NS:cb

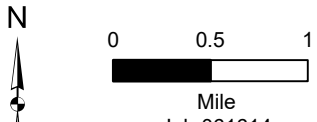
Enclosures

c: Assistant Chief Engineer - Planning
Bridge Division
District 6 Engineer




The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Bridge Number M1581 is on Highway 86 in Prairie County. Through consultation, the State Historic Preservation Office and the ARDOT determined the bridge as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in 2021. The bridge was constructed over Wattensaw Bayou by an unknown builder in 1945 and reconstructed in 1967. The bridge length measures 237 feet with a width of approximately 25 feet.

While the bridge is neither the earliest nor longest of its type, it is a good example of the wood or timber stringer/multi-beam or girder design and does have an exceptional length for its design type. It illustrates the design more clearly than other examples. Bridge M1581 is one of 230 bridges with the wood or timber construction still in use on the Arkansas highway system.



Historic Bridge
Prairie County

 Project Location