



COUNTY OF MERCER
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
ENGINEERING DIVISION

McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Director

GREGORY SANDUSKY, P.E., P.L.S.
County Engineer

February 6, 2009

Paul Pogorzelski, P.E.
Hopewell Township Administrator/Engineer
201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560

Re: Bear Tavern Bridge Replacement

Dear Mr. Pogorzelski:

As you are aware Mercer County is in the process of replacing bridge # 214.2 carrying Bear Tavern Road over Jacob's Creek in Hopewell Township.

After reviewing and comparing many alternatives, Mercer County is recommending Alternative 5B-3. This alternative consists of a steel truss with two 12' lanes, one 6' shoulder and one 4' shoulder and was chosen for the following reasons:

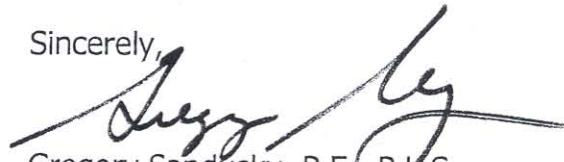
- A steel truss was the recommended preference of the Jacob's Creek Bridge Task Force.
- It will allow the existing bridge to remain in place and open to traffic during construction.
- Rehabilitation of the existing steel truss in-place would require the addition of much heavier members compromising the historic integrity of the structure.
- Installing a prefabricated steel truss will expedite the construction of the new bridge minimizing disruption to the area and the traveling public.
- The alignment will allow the bridge and roadway approaches to be constructed within existing right-of-way.

- The abutments and wingwalls will be stone-faced to replicate the existing stonewalls and abutments. The stone facing and mortar will be selected utilizing input from the local historic society.

After the new bridge is constructed and opened to traffic, the existing truss will be dismantled, rehabilitated and relocated to a location in Hopewell Township that agreeable to both Hopewell Township and Mercer County. At the new location the restored 1882 truss will function as a pedestrian bridge.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at 609-989-6600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Sandusky", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gregory Sandusky, P.E., P.L.S.
Mercer County Engineer

GS:mar

C: Aaron T. Watson, Director, D.O.T. & I.
Thomas J. Bernhard, Assistant County Engineer