

From: Kim Robinson [mailto:kbrobinson1@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2009 9:54 AM
To: hthpc@hopewelltwp.org
Subject:



Dear Historic Preservation Commission,

Just an FYI. The following letter was sent to Brian Hughes yesterday from Preservation NJ.

Kim Robinson

October 9, 2009

Brian M. Hughes, Mercer County Executive
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, New Jersey 08650

Dear Mr. Hughes.

Preservation New Jersey (PNJ), the statewide non-profit organization for historic preservation education and advocacy, has been made aware of the proposed plans for replacement of the Bear Tavern Road Bridge crossing Jacob's Creek in Hopewell Township and the realignment of the intersection of Bear Tavern and Jacob's Creek Roads. We have consulted with area Revolutionary War- era history experts, including The Crossroads of the American Revolution Association and The Old Barracks Association. Based on the information indicating that the surrounding landscape is a rare example of a location along the Washington Victory Trail that remains much as it appeared at the time of George Washington's December 26, 1776 march to Trenton, and that this site of the only major stream crossing made by Washington's army on the way to Trenton is essentially undisturbed by the passage of 233 years, we support the protection of this significant historic landscape.

We also comprehend the need for improved safety and accessibility in the area of the bridge. Preservation New Jersey supports protection of the integrity of both the surrounding landscape and the Bear Tavern Road Bridge, and believes further investigation is required in order to determine the approach that best accomplishes this goal. As we understand it, you have made a commitment to protect the historic Jacob's Creek Bridge, currently by relocating the span to Alliger Park for restoration. PNJ believes that further study of the span's required weight limit and the potential for rehabilitation of the bridge should be undertaken, and that an approach that protects the historic integrity of the bridge to the fullest extent possible should be pursued.

We understand that you are currently working with the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association and the HTHPC

regarding the bridge replacement and road realignment plans and the potential of mitigating the effect these plans have on the surrounding landscape. Preservation New Jersey encourages continued collaboration with these and other interested groups, and pursuit of a final plan that protects the integrity of this nationally significant site.

Sincerely,
Ron Emrich
Executive Director

Cc: Greg Sandusky, Mercer County Engineer
Anthony P. Carabeli, Freeholder Chair
Ann M. Cannon, Freeholder Vice Chair
Freeholder Dan Benson
Freeholder John A. Cimino
Freeholder Pasquale "Pat" Colavita, Jr.
Freeholder Keith V. Hamilton
Freeholder Lucylle R.S. Walter
Kim Robinson, Save the Victory Trail and Jacobs Creek Bridge Coalition