



COUNTY OF MERCER
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
ENGINEERING DIVISION
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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GREGORY SANDUSKY, P.E., P.L.S.
County Engineer

September 21, 2010

Daniel D. Saunders
Acting Administrator
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Bear Tavern Road Bridge over Jacobs Creek
State Bridge Number 2200060
Hopewell Township, Mercer County

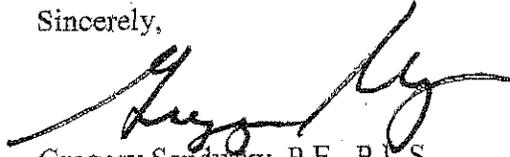
Dear Mr. Saunders:

Mercer County is anxious to move forward with replacement of the Jacobs Creek Bridge and re-opening of County Route 579. Therefore, I am acknowledging receipt of your correspondence dated September 9, 2010 stating that the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) concurs with findings of the Phase 1A and revised Phase 1B Archeological Survey assessment for Jacobs Creek Bridge, which conclude that the project site has a low potential to contain significant archeological resources. In addition, as per your letter dated May 15, 2009, HPO has accepted the Historic Bridge Analysis for Mercer County Bridge No. 214.2, Bear Tavern Road over Jacobs Creek prepared by Keller & Kirkpatrick, dated April 2009. This report concludes that the selection of Alternative 5A/5B-Modified 3 (New Single Span/relocate truss) would minimize adverse effects to identified historic properties. Although HPO recommended rehabilitating the existing truss and relocating it for pedestrian use at a park, the county would prefer to rehabilitate the existing truss and leave it in place to serve as a scenic overlook.

Based on the aforementioned correspondence, it is my understanding that we have met all the requirements of HPO to move forward with preliminary design. Therefore, Mercer County intends to seek engineering design proposals for Alternate 5A/5B-Modified 3, a single span, stone-faced structure. We will be submitting the freshwater wetland and stream encroachment permits once the preliminary design has been completed. If HPO has any additional requirements of which I have not been made aware, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Mercer County intends to solicit Requests for Proposal by November 30, 2010.

I would like to thank you for your attention and consideration of this important project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact my office at (609) 989-6600 or by email at gsandusky@mercercounty.org.

Sincerely,



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

GS

C: Aaron T. Watson, Director of Mercer County D.O.T. & I.
Paul Pogorzelski, Hopewell Township Administrator