February 13, 2009  
Waco District, McLennan County  
CSJ# 0909-22-141  

Washington Avenue at the Brazos, City of Waco  

Ms. Adrienne Campbell  
History Programs  
Texas Historical Commission  
Austin, Texas 78711  

Dear Ms. Campbell:  

This letter is a request for review and concurrence to a change in the rehabilitation of the NR-listed Pennsylvania truss bridge at the Brazos River in the City of Waco, the details of which were coordinated with your office in May 2008.  

Since that time, the contractor has requested a change in the rehabilitation work on the proposed sub-tie replacement. Staff from your office, TxDOT historians, and TxDOT bridge engineers met on February 12, 2009 to go over the proposed plan in detail. The contractor proposes to replace the damaged sub-tie diagonals without removing the primary truss diagonals. This change will allow the existing bridge deck to remain in place during replacement of the sub-ties for construction operations. Plan sheets detailing the proposed work are attached. As shown on the plans, the proposed shape of the sub-tie connection at the middle pin is similar to the connection previously detailed for the upper pin except it is solid so as to prevent water and debris from packing the connection.  

According to TxDOT bridge engineers, the proposed detail would be structurally adequate if installed properly, and the detail is the best compromise in lieu of the original plans. In order to install the detail proposed in the original rehabilitation plans, primary diagonals would have to be removed to accomplish the installation, and the contractor feels that this operation could not be done safely. TxDOT bridge engineers expect to receive detailed, signed and sealed working drawings and work will not commence without the approval of the TxDOT Engineer of Record for the original contract plans. TxDOT bridge engineers also plan to request x-ray inspection of the welds required to install the proposed sub-ties to ensure that work is performed adequately.  

In accordance with 36 CFR 800 and the First Amended Programmatic Agreement for Transportation Undertakings, I hereby request your signed concurrence with our finding that the proposed change in work causes no adverse effect to the NR-listed bridge. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process. If you have any questions
Waco, McLennan Co, Washington Ave at Brazos
CSJ: 0909-22-141

or comments concerning these determinations, please call me at (512) 416 2611.

Sincerely,

Renee Benn
Historic Preservation Specialist,
Historical Studies Section,
Environmental Affairs Division

Attachments
cc: Charles Walker, TxDOT BRG

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CONCUR--NO ADVERSE EFFECT

NAME: [Signature]  DATE: 3.2.09

for State Historic Preservation Officer