

## Appendix III: Bridges

### Goal 1: Fauquier County should encourage the protection, preservation, rehabilitation and reuse of historic bridges.

*Objective 1.1: Fauquier County should intensify efforts to locate and document significant historic bridges through survey work and mapping to create a comprehensive inventory of all historic bridges in the County.*

- Action 1.1.1: Undertake reconnaissance level surveys of Fauquier County's bridges, fifty years and older, that have yet to be documented and update existing bridge survey information. As part of these efforts, bridge location, type, building materials, approximate date of construction, character-defining features, and potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be recorded.
- Action 1.1.2: Seek grant funding to identify bridges countywide. Map documented and previously undocumented bridges in the County's GIS database, and record them in the Fauquier County Heritage Resource Inventory.

*Objective 1.2: Fauquier County should employ multiple methods to preserve bridges listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties of historic districts or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as those not yet evaluated for their significance.*

- Action 1.2.1: Every reasonable effort should be made to continue a historic bridge in useful transportation service. Primary consideration should be given to rehabilitation of the bridge on site. Only when this option has been fully exhausted should other alternatives be explored.
- Action 1.2.2: The original character-defining features or qualities of a historic bridge, its site, and its environment should be respected. Avoid the removal, concealment, or alteration of any distinctive material or engineering or architectural features.
- Action 1.2.3: All historic bridges should be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and that seek to create a false historical appearance should not be undertaken. Changes that have taken place in the course of time may be evidence of the development of a bridge or its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance should be recognized, carefully evaluated, and respected.
- Action 1.2.4: Distinctive engineering and stylistic features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property should be preserved.

- Action 1.2.5: Deteriorated structural members and architectural features should be retained and repaired, rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive element, the new element should match the old in design, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features should be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.
- Action 1.2.6: Chemical or physical treatments that cause damage to historic materials should not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, including abutments, should be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.
- Action 1.2.7: Significant archaeological and cultural resources affected by a project should be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures should be undertaken.
- Action 1.2.8: New additions, exterior alterations, structural reinforcements, or related new construction should not destroy historic materials that characterize the bridge. The new work should be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the historic bridge and its environment.
- Action 1.2.9: New additions and adjacent or related new construction should be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.
- Action 1.2.10: The preferred use for a historic bridge is continued service for vehicular purposes. However, in the event that a structural upgrade or replacement is proposed, the County supports the following:
  - Passive solutions should first be explored, such as adjusting the live load of the existing bridge by restricting vehicles (e.g. load posting, signaling), adjusting the flow of approaching traffic by restricting speed, installing signage or traffic signals, leaving the bridge in place for one-lane traffic, or reducing the dead load by providing a lighter deck system.
  - If retention in place and continued vehicular service of a historic bridge are not feasible and all other alternatives have been considered and exhausted, priority should be given to continued use for non-vehicular transportation, such as pedestrian and bicycling uses.
  - If retention in place and continued vehicular service or non-vehicular service are not feasible, all other alternatives have been considered and exhausted, and the historic bridge must be removed from its site, the preferred use for the historic bridge would be removal for adaptive use within a public park or educational space or finally, a private residence or commercial space.

If a historic bridge is to be replaced, the County supports retaining character-defining architectural features of the bridge, such as stone abutments or distinctive railings, and using them in the new construction. Before a historic bridge is removed, the County encourages intensive level documentation of the bridge, which would include measured drawings, photographs, and the preparation of a written historic context of the particular bridge type and/or style. Individuals completing such documentation should be qualified under the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards with demonstrable knowledge of bridge history and experience in intensive level survey work documenting historic bridges.

*Objective 1.3: Fauquier County should partner with state and federal agencies, other local governments, and organizations to enhance the preservation of historic bridges and comply with local, state, and federal preservation laws.*

- Action 1.3.1: Participate in the review process outlined in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 800 as a consulting party.
- Action 1.3.2: When a project is proposed that would result in adverse effects to historic bridges, Fauquier County should participate in mitigation efforts to minimize the effect of the project on the bridge, as well as the surrounding landscape and archeological sites.
- Action 1.3.3: To retain the historic integrity of historic bridges, Fauquier County should recommend actions that comply with the *Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.
- Action 1.3.4: Identify and develop potential funding sources within Fauquier County for preserving and/or relocating historic bridges.

**Goal 2: Fauquier County should encourage the construction of context sensitive and aesthetic bridges and overpasses.**

*Objective 2.1: Fauquier County should develop guidelines for bridge aesthetics based on the location and function of the bridge.*

- Action 2.1.1: Identify specific bridges nearing the end of their service life that should be reconstructed in the future in a fashion that better fits with their environment.
- Action 2.1.2: Identify bridges in locations that should function as gateways into Fauquier County and its service districts. Develop design standards for these bridges.
- Action 2.1.3: Identify bridges on Virginia byways, scenic roads or scenic rivers. Develop design standards to maintain the culture and unique landscape of the road.

*Objective 2.2: Design bridges, landscaping, and other elements to recall the heritage of the area and create a sense of place.*

- Action 2.2.1: Use native plants wherever possible along the roadside for lower maintenance and to augment the sense of place.
- Action 2.2.2: Plant masses of perennials at gateway or entry feature bridges to emphasize the sense of arrival in an area. Bridges and overpasses on the Route 15/17/29 corridor shall include plant materials listed in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground plant palette.
- Action 2.2.3: Use stone facing or formliners stained in the appropriate color to simulate the appearance of stone native to the area.
- Action 2.2.4: Paint or powder coat the guard rails of bridges to allow them to blend with the structure and environment.

*Objective 2.3: Ensure views of skyline, scenic elements, or other features.*

- Action 2.3.1: Preserve and open views from bridges along Virginia byways or scenic roads.

*Objective 2.4: Create opportunities for public art on or around overpasses.*

- Action 2.4.1: Create exciting, appealing, and harmonious public spaces by integrating art into the design and planning of infrastructure at the earliest design stage.
- Action 2.4.2: Collaborate with local artists to celebrate and express Fauquier County's unique heritage in the form of public art.