

Program Comment for Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges

Rebecca Horn Turner/Amanda Abner



Lake Barkley Lodge Bridge
designed by
Edward Durrell Stone
1968



FHWA/ACHP

Program Comment

- ***Program Comments*** are:
 - 36 CFR 800.14(e)
 - An alternate method for federal agencies to meet their Section 106 obligations
 - One of five program alternatives which allow agencies to tailor Section 106 to meet the needs of the agency
 - Provide ACHP flexibility to issue comments on a federal program or class of undertakings in lieu of commenting on such undertakings on a case-by-case basis
 - The ACHP may also issue program comments at the request of a federal agency or on its own initiative.

FHWA/ACHP

Program Comment

- Eliminate individual requirements under Section 106 for Post WWII Bridges
- Concrete and steel bridges and culverts.
- Ensure recognition of those bridges considered significant
- Streamline the process for common “cookie-cutter” bridges
- Reviewed 5,000 bridges between 1945 - 1970

FHWA/ACHP Program Comment

Examples of “cookie-cutter” bridges



Concrete Culvert



Concrete T-Beam

FHWA/ACHP

Program Comment

- ***Intent of ACHP***

“ ...we believe that the PC establishes a good balance between protecting the most significant historic bridges of these common types and eliminating repetitive and redundant documentation and reviews that can be costly to the government and have limited value to the broader public.”

ACHP

FHWA/ACHP

Program Comment

- Applies to:
 - Reinforced concrete slab bridges
 - Reinforced Cast-in-place slab bridges
 - Reinforced concrete Pre-cast bridges
 - Pre-stressed concrete slab bridges
 - Reinforced concrete beam and girder bridges
 - Reinforced concrete T-beams
 - Pre-stressed concrete Channel beams
 - Pre-stressed concrete I-beams
 - Pre-stressed concrete box beams
 - Multi-Beam or Multi-Girder types
 - Culverts and reinforced concrete boxes
 - Reinforced concrete boxes
 - Concrete box culverts
 - Concrete pipe culverts
 - Steel pipe culverts

FHWA/ACHP Program Comment

- Applies to:
 - Effect of undertakings
 - Concrete and Steel Bridges that lack distinction
 - Not previously listed on or determined eligible for the NRHP
 - Not in or adjacent to a Historic District

FHWA/ACHP Program Comment

- Does NOT apply to:
 - Arch Bridges
 - Truss Bridges
 - Bridges with movable spans
 - Suspension Bridges
 - Cable-stayed Bridges
 - Covered Bridges
 - Identified as those with exceptional significance with a person
 - Bridges with stone masonry abutments



FHWA/ACHP

Program Comment

- Does NOT apply to:
 - Early or particularly important example of its type in State or Nation
 - Distinctive engineering or architectural features that depart from standard designs
 - Displaying other elements engineered to respond to unique environmental contexts

FHWA/ACHP

Program Comment

- Eliminates case-by-case review
- No findings regarding historic significance
- Bridge is not likely to be preserved in place
- FHWA to carryout programmatic mitigation
- Not a waiver for bridge projects
- Supports FHWA Everyday Counts and MAP-21
- Section 4(f)

FHWA/ACHP Program Comment



Kansas Corral Railing



Type T6 Tubular W Beam

Railing types that are not exceptional

FHWA/ACHP Program Comment



Type 26 Concrete Barrier with Sidewalk

New Jersey Concrete Barrier



Railing types that are not exceptional

FHWA/ACHP

Program Comment

- Conclusion:
 - KYTC/DEA considered approximately 5,000 bridges
 - KYTC/FHWA/SHPO considered 113 statewide to be Exceptional
 - Does not exempt the entire project from Section 106 review
 - KYTC/DEA has a list of Program Comment Bridges
 - FHWA website
 - <http://environment.fhwa.dot.gov/histpres/programcomment.asp>