



Kidorf Preservation Consulting

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September 2, 2009

Derek L. Delacourt
Planner
Planning and Development Department
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, Michigan 48309

RE: Proposed design, Tienken Road Bridge over Stony Creek, Stoney Creek Historic District

Dear Derek,

Per our discussion I am writing to give my professional opinion on whether the proposed preliminary plans dated August 12, 2009 presented by the Road Commission for Oakland County for the September, 2009 Historic District Commission meeting are appropriate for the Stoney Creek Historic District.

As previously presented to the Commission, the existing bridge does not contribute to the historic character of the Stoney Creek Historic District, nor is it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As the bridge does not contribute to the district, the demolition of the existing bridge meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, standard number 2, "The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided." Since the bridge does not characterize the historic property (the district) it can be removed. Further under the guidelines for District/Neighborhood it is recommended, "Removing non-significant buildings, additions, or streetscape and landscape features which detract from the historic character of the district or the neighborhood." Since the bridge is non-significant and detracts from the historic character of the district it should be removed.

The proposed bridge is compatible in size, scale and massing to the Stoney Creek Historic District. The proposed bridge is less than twelve feet wider than the existing bridge. The additional width is due to the addition of a pedestrian walkway on the south side. The proposed guard rail and pedestrian railing are of a design that does not compete with the historic characteristics of the district, yet are compatible, and appropriate for a new bridge in the district.

In my opinion the proposed replacement bridge on the drawings dated August 12, 2009, meets *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*, in particular standards numbers 9 and 10. "New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment" and "New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in a such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired." The proposed bridge also meets the guidelines for District/Neighborhood in which it is NOT recommended, "Introducing a new building, streetscape or landscape feature that is out of scale or otherwise inappropriate to the setting's historic character, e.g., replacing picket fencing with chain link fencing" and "Introducing new construction into historic districts that is visually incompatible or that destroys historic relationships within the district or neighborhood."

Please contact me at 313-300-9376 or kristine@kidorfpreservationconsulting.com if you have any questions or if you require additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristine M. Kidorf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kristine M. Kidorf
Kidorf Preservation Consulting