

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
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July 14, 2011

EI-18651
EB

Melanie Yasbin
Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC
600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301
Towson, Maryland 21204-4022

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Re: Additional information concerning the removal of the Wildcat Creek railroad bridge (Bridge #19243)
(Docket AB-55 [Sub-No.401X]; DHPA #4590)

Dear Ms. Yasbin:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated June 15, 2011 and received on June 16, 2011 for the above indicated project in Clay Township, Carroll County, Indiana.

Thank you for your recent submission. We previously noted that the Wildcat Creek/ L&N Railroad Bridge (B121.5), which carried the Louisville & Nashville Railroad over the north fork of Wildcat Creek (CSXT Bridge 19243), is considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The 1278' bridge contains twenty-seven spans, of which the most notable is 83' in length. Built circa 1893, the bridge is significant as one of the oldest rail viaducts in the state and served as an important link for the Monon rail line between Chicago and Indianapolis.

From the information provided to our office, it is our understanding that a failing pier has caused severe deflection in a section of the Wildcat Creek Bridge and raised concern of potential collapse. However, despite the current damage, the Indiana SHPO believes that the Wildcat Creek Bridge retains sufficient integrity to still be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The qualities that contribute to its significance: its age, substantial length and height, and association with the Monon Railroad, appear to remain largely intact at the moment, although severely threatened due to the deteriorated condition of the structure. Therefore, we believe that the proposed demolition or dismantling of the Wildcat Creek Bridge would result in an adverse effect to a historic property (*see* 36 C.F.R. § 800.5[a]).

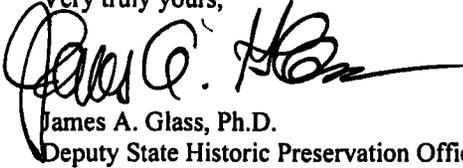
Considering the circumstances of the current condition of the Wildcat Creek Bridge, we believe that it would be appropriate at this time for the Surface Transportation Board to make a finding of adverse effect, notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation of their finding by providing documentation in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e), and proceed to consult with the Indiana SHPO and all consulting parties to develop and evaluate alternatives or modifications to the project that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects on historic properties as stated in 36 C.F.R. § 800.6(a)(1).

Also, given the nature of the undertaking, we recommend that the Western Regional Office of Indiana Landmarks, the Carroll County Historian, Carroll County Historical Society, and Dan McCain of Delphi Historic Trails be invited to participate as consulting parties and be provided with complete copies of all project information. We believe that their advice and consultation would be helpful in resolving the potential adverse effects of the undertaking.

Melanie Yasbin
July 14, 2011
Page 2

A copy of the revised 36 C.F.R. Part 800 that went into effect on August 5, 2004, may be found on the Internet at www.achp.gov for your reference. If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Cathy Draeger at (317) 234-3791 or cdraeger@dnr.IN.gov. If you have questions about buildings or structures please contact Chad Slider at (317) 234-5366 or cslider@dnr.IN.gov. Additionally, in all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #4590.

Very truly yours,



James A. Glass, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JAG:CWS.cws

cc ✓ Ken Blodgett, Surface Transportation Board
emc Blythe Semmer, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, bsemmer@achp.gov
Dan McCain, Delphi Historic Trails, mccain@carlnet.org
Phyllis Moore, Carroll County Historian, pmoore2630@gmail.com
Steve Mulligan, Carroll County Historical Society, carrollcountyhistoricalsociety@ffni.com