



Bridge Moving - Historic Truss Bridge Restoration - Custom Fabrication and Erection

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May 5, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express strong support for the restoration and preservation of the historic Skinners Falls Bridge over Delaware River. This bridge is an extremely rare example of a multi-span pin-connected Baltimore truss bridge. It is among the oldest known bridges associated with the American Bridge Company, having been built shortly after the company's formation. The bridge is also ornately decorated, including portal knee bracing decoration, portal cresting, decorative builder plaque. There are also original lattice railings that are 20 inches in height and which feature beautiful decorative flower motifs. This is to say nothing of the geometric beauty of the complex Baltimore truss configuration combined with the complexity of the riveted built-up beams that contain v-lacing and lattice.

Bach Steel is in strong support of the restoration of this bridge. We have restored many historic metal truss bridges and we believe this bridge, like others we have restored, would be feasible and cost effective to restore. If fully restored, perhaps by disassembling the bridge and restoring each part individually in a shop setting, this bridge could serve for many decades more with minimal future maintenance costs. Key to keeping these future costs down is a fully comprehensive restoration performed by engineers and contractors with extensive experience doing this type of work.

Bach Steel has been approved by PennDOT for the hot riveting on historic bridges similar to the Skinners Falls Bridge. In our past experience in Pennsylvania we have performed the disassembly, repair, and reassembly of historic truss bridges like this bridge. Bach Steel is a Registered Business Partner (#009978) with PennDOT. We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to bid the restoration work on this bridge.

It is important to have the bridge evaluated by engineers and contractors who have experience restoring historic bridges, as this work differs greatly from modern bridge construction. Experienced engineers and contractors would be able to restore this bridge at lesser cost, but with a better outcome in terms of the repair quality. We want to add our name as strong supporters for the restoration of this bridge. Restoration is feasible, and this is one of the rarest designs of truss in the area, with the bridge's rare Baltimore truss configuration. Should the decision be made to restore this bridge, we stand ready to offer our services.

Nels Raynor
President
Bach Ornamental and Structural Steel Inc.