
From: Schoolhouse1890
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 8:11 PM
To: comments@baltometro.org
Cc: kduerling@baltimorecountymd.gov; ksabolcik@baltimorecountymd.gov; gannet1
vrrick

Subject: Jericho Covered Bridge Restoration

Monica Haines Benkhedda
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
1500 Whetstone Way
Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21230
comments@baltometro.org

Dear Ms. Behkhedda:

As a representative of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, it was my pleasure to attend the meeting you hosted on March 30, 2011 regarding restoration of Jericho Covered Bridge. We appreciate the opportunity to express in writing the concerns voiced at the meeting. It goes without saying that adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation should be honored regarding retention of as much of the original fabric as practicable. There are pictures showing the bridge in varying colors over time but this would be the opportunity to do paint analysis and replicate the original color in a flame retardant and graffiti resistant formula. Through the persistence of Mr. Colin Dinnery, a resident on Jericho Road, bulletproof streetlights have been erected at both ends of the bridge. This has had some influence in discouraging inappropriate activity on the bridge but there is ongoing evidence of graffiti, drug and alcohol use, illegal fireworks, paintball, spinning of tires, and attempted arson. Installation of a surveillance camera could document this behavior and lead to the apprehension and prosecution of those responsible.

As the interpreters of nearby Jerusalem Mill Village, we field many questions regarding the covered bridge so it would be beneficial if an historical marker was attached to the bridge or erected adjacent to it.

And finally, on a recurring basis, drivers of vehicles taller than 12' 1" fail to note the height warning signs and proceed to plow into the overhanging ends of the bridge. Rather than more and bigger signs, the solution would be the installation of overhead barriers at the approaches to the bridge.

We hope our suggestions and concerns can be addressed in planning for this very welcome undertaking and we stand ready to assist in any manner you deem beneficial.

Sincerely,

Chris Scovill
Curator
Friends of Jerusalem Mill

Monica Haines Benkhedda, MSW
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board
1500 Whetstone Way , Suite 300
Baltimore MD 21230
comments@baltometro.org

Dear Ms. Benkhedda:

Thank you for hosting the public review and comment opportunity on 30 Mar 2011 to answer questions and accept comments on the Jericho Bridge amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program. The Jericho Covered Bridge is a critical element of the historical Jerusalem Mill Village and the Gunpowder Falls State Park (GFSP).

GFSP supports your proposal to repair and restore the Jericho Bridge and would like to work with your office and the Baltimore County Bureau of Engineering during planning and execution of this project. We understand that the Jericho Bridge will be closed for 9 to 12 months starting in the summer of 2013 and we are prepared assist in maintaining public safety surrounding the construction.

We have the following suggestions:

- The Jericho Bridge is part of some "urban" legends, so security during the construction and afterwards should be considered.
- The height of the current bridge is 12 feet, 1 inch and because of incidents in the past, a low visual profile height warning device or barrier is recommended.
- The Little Gunpowder Trail crosses over the Jericho Bridge; we would like to coordinate your design with our planned improvements to the trail head on the Harford County side of the Little Gunpowder Falls River.

The Friends of Jerusalem Mill (FOJM), our supporting volunteer organization at this location, have made the following additional comments:

- A paint analysis should be conducted on the original surviving arch timbers to determine the appropriate color. In the interest of preservation, the maximum use of existing timber should be considered.
- A historical marker mounted on or near the bridge should also be considered to accurately document the significant and historical importance of this structure.
- FYI, the 150th Anniversary of General Johnson/Major Gilmor's Raid is Jul 2014, concurrent with your estimated completion of the construction.

Please feel free to contact me or Mr. Rick Decker of FOJM at vrrick@gmail.com, for further assistance.

Ranger Sarah Witcher
Area Manager
Gunpowder Falls State Park
410-592-2897

CF: Kevin J Sabolcik, P.E. Chief Structural Design Section, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, Baltimore County and Keith A. Duerling, P.E., Project Engineer

From: Witcher, Sarah [SWitcher@dnr.state.md.us]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 4:26 PM
To: comments@baltometro.org
Subject: Jericho Bridge amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program

Attachments: jericho bridge1.doc



jericho bridge1.doc
(28 KB)

Please accept the attached comment letter regarding the Jericho Road proposal.

Thank you!
Ranger Sarah Witcher
Area Manager
Gunpowder Falls State Park
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Kingsville, MD 21087
410-592-2897