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7 February 2012

**RE: Chatham, Replacement of the Mitchell River Bridge (C-07-001):
Section 106 & 4f Review**

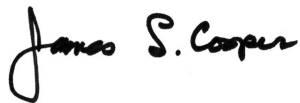
Ms. Pamela Stephenson
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
55 Broadway, 10th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Ms. Stephenson:

I am in receipt of your letter of 26 January 2012 and enclosed revised draft MOA for the Mitchell River Bridge project. The concerns I raised in my letter to you of 11 December 2011 were not addressed either in the Section 106 consulting parties' teleconference of 4 January or in the revised MOA. Hence I can not concur with the revised draft any more than I had with the original MOA text.

I regret that 106 "consultation" has in this case been so *pro forma* and substantially inconsequential. There is little evidence that MassDOT has listened seriously to the preservation consultants who have spoken with a near-unanimous voice – supported by the Advisory Council – within the context of design alternatives acceptable to MassDOT. To address the requirements of 4f: Alt. 1B remains in keeping with the historical, Register-eligible pattern of the Mitchell River Bridge; Alt. 3 "uses" or significantly undermines that heritage.

Sincerely yours,



James L. Cooper, Ph.D.
historic bridge consultant
& consulting party, Mitchell River Bridge