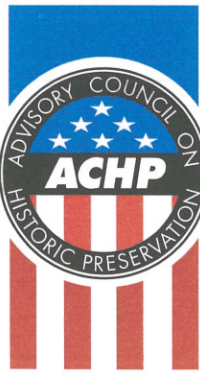


Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Chairman

Clement A. Price Ph.D.
Vice Chairman

John M. Fowler
Executive Director



Preserving America's Heritage

January 11, 2012

Mr. Victor Mendez
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ref: *Proposed Replacement of the Mitchell River Drawbridge
Mass DOT Project File No. 603390
Chatham, Massachusetts*

Dear Mr. Mendez:

In response to the notification from the Massachusetts Division, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) will participate in consultation to resolve adverse effects for the replacement of the Mitchell River Drawbridge in Chatham, Massachusetts. The ACHP has participated in the earlier stages of consultation by providing technical assistance to the Division and other consulting parties, and by requesting FHWA seek a determination from the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on whether the Mitchell River Drawbridge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register. As the Keeper determined the bridge to be eligible and thus subject to consideration under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470f), we have continued our involvement in consultation. Our decision to formally participate in this consultation is based on the *Criteria for Council Involvement in Reviewing Individual Section 106 Cases*, contained in Appendix A of our regulations. The criteria are met for the proposed undertaking because of the importance of the affected bridge which is the last remaining single-leaf wooden drawbridge in Massachusetts (and perhaps in the entire United States).

Section 800.6(a)(1)(iii) of our regulations requires that we notify you, as the head of the agency, of our decision to participate in consultation. By copy of this letter, we are also notifying Pamela Stephenson, Division Administrator, of this decision.

Our participation in this consultation will be handled by Carol Legard, who can be reached at 202-606-8522 or via email at clegard@achp.gov. We look forward to working with FHWA and other consulting parties to consider alternatives to this undertaking that could avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects to historic properties and to finalize and execute a memorandum of agreement.

Sincerely,

John M. Fowler
Executive Director

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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