

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION**

10324 Interstate 30 | P.O. Box 2261 | Little Rock, AR 72203-2261 | Phone: 501.569.2281 | Fax: 501.569.2009

February 2, 2021

RE: Historic Bridge 01412
Job Number 070240
Ouachita River Str. & Apprs.
(Arkadelphia) (Hwy. 51)
Clark County
Historic Bridge Marketing Request

## To Whom It May Concern:

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) replaced Bridge Number 01412 [Ouachita River Bridge (Arkadelphia)] on Highway 51 in Clark County. This bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on February 1, 2006. A location map and further information about the bridge is enclosed.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, 23 USC § 144 (g)(5) states: "Any State which proposes to demolish a historic bridge for a replacement project ... shall first make the bridge available for donation to a State, locality, or responsible private entity..." As part of the mitigation process, ARDOT is offering to donate Bridge Number 01412 to any government or entity that demonstrates a willingness to accept title for, maintain in place or relocate it for use at another site, preserve the historic features of, and assume the financial responsibility for the continued maintenance on the structure.

The construction of the new bridge on Highway 51 was completed after the original sponsor opted out of accepting the bridge. ARDOT, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), can reimburse costs associated with preservation up to the demolition estimate expense for bridges preserved in place. The demolition estimated reimbursement will be determined by the FHWA, not to exceed 100% of the costs of demolition of the bridge, which will be based on the estimate by ARDOT.

The 2018 demolition estimate for this bridge is \$189,000. The costs associated with preservation could include rehabilitation of the bridge or minor modifications for recreational use. If the bridge is relocated, the reimbursement funds allocated to this bridge will be exhausted during the careful dismantling and relocation process.

If you are interested in acquiring this bridge, please respond with a letter of interest addressed to me within 45 days from this letter's date. Such letter submission does not commit an entity to accept the bridge. Following its receipt, ARDOT'S Historic Bridge Analysis Committee will request a preservation plan, including required information for consideration, before a preferred recipient is selected. If multiple letters of interest are received, preference will be given to the entity accepting the bridge for preservation in place. For further information, contact Nikki Senn at (501) 569-2979 or Nikki.Senn@ardot.gov.

Sincerely,

John Fleming
Division Head

The for

**Environmental Division** 

Enclosures JF:NS:cb

c: Assistant Chief Engineer - Planning Bridge Division District 7 Engineer



The Ouachita River Bridge (ARDOT Bridge Number 01412) is located in Clark County over the Ouachita River, previously carrying Highway 51. The Luten Bridge Company of Little Rock, Arkansas built the steel, Parker through truss bridge in 1933 over the Caddo River. The truss span was moved to its current location in 1960, which illustrates the versatility and portability of truss bridges.

Charles H. Parker patented the Parker truss in 1870. It is a variation of the Pratt truss design using less metal and offering greater economy of materials. The Parker truss exhibits a polygonal (curved) top chord and inclined end posts. The bridge's top chords connect above the roadway; therefore, it is called a through truss.

This steel truss is 202 feet long and approximately 25 feet wide. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 1, 2006 under Criterion C, for its metal truss design. The bridge was removed from vehicular service in 2018 upon completion of the new Highway 51 bridge. Only one other Parker through truss, the War Eagle Bridge (ARDOT Bridge Number 17807), currently remains in vehicular service in Arkansas.

