



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

September 16, 2022

Bob Harrison, (Yakima City Manager), Sara Watkins, Yakima City Attorney, and  
City Council Members  
City of Yakima  
129 N 2nd St  
Yakima, WA 98901

RE: Yakima Valley Transportation Co. Trolley Bridge & William O. Douglas Trail

Dear Yakima City Officials,

I am writing to update you as to recent discussions that we have had with various parties involved in the future of Yakima Valley Transportation Co. Trolley Bridge which spans the Naches River.

While visions may slightly differ on the best way to utilize this resource, I think all of the parties can agree that the bridge is an exceptional historic structure which is unique in many ways, with connections to several aspects of our history; transportation, engineering and for its connection to William O. Douglas. Such laying of history only enhances its significance. However, discussions about its use, alterations and long-term maintenance should be carefully considered and weighted.

My initial reaction to proposed alterations to the bridge may have been premature. At the time I did not have the chance to see any specific design details or drawings. I have also been made aware that preliminary plans were approved by our office when the bridge was under-going rehabilitation in the early 2000s.

While National Register listing does not require formal review by our office on changes to buildings and structures (unless there is federal nexus), we are more than happy to serve in a consulting capacity.

I have offered to meet with the various groups within the next couple of weeks to discuss the project and proposed changes in more detail. Additions/Changes to bridges can easily affect eligibility, but the devil is in the details, and we have many examples where rail bridges have accommodated pedestrian use as well.

I am optimistic that everyone's concerns can be met and the project can serve as a national example of stewardship and cooperation among the various parties. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (360) 890-2634.





Sincerely,



**Michael Houser**

*State Architectural Historian, DAHP*

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