



Integrated Waste
Road & Bridge Operations
Sonoma County Airport
Sonoma County Transit

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TO: Sonoma County Landmarks Commission

FROM: Department of Transportation & Public Works (Staff Contact: John C. Leong)

RE: Response to Landmarks Commission—Freestone Flat Rd Bridge Replacement project

Sonoma County Department of Transportation & Public Works (DTPW) presented the Freestone Flat Road Bridge Replacement project at the September 7, 2021 Landmarks Commission meeting. The following is a discussion of Landmarks Commission comments and responses from said meeting.

Comment: DTPW explore a proposed bridge location that is upstream of the existing bridge.

Response: *Upstream bridge replacement alignments were considered during the preliminary design phase and rejected. The Salmon Creek geometry upstream of the project parallels Freestone Flat Road. A roadway and bridge replacement alignment upstream would require a longer bridge along with fill and retaining walls that encroach into the creek channel. This would increase environmental impacts, cost and negatively impact the channel hydraulics and potential future scour at the bridge.*

Comment: DTPW explore other alternatives to the proposed 26-foot wide new bridge.

Response: *Bridge width was governed by local and federal roadway standards. For a Local Road, with a Design Volume under 400 vehicles per day, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Geometric Design of Highways and Streets requires a minimum two lane traveled way width of 18 feet with 2 feet shoulders. This results in a 22 feet clear width, and 26 feet total proposed bridge width to account for concrete bridge barriers which are mounted outside the traveled way. The County meets these minimum width standards as a condition of using the federal funds. The existing traffic volume does not warrant a single lane bridge replacement and while the proposed 22 feet clear width may seem excessive compared to the existing 12 feet bridge width, however the approach roadway varies between 18 to 19 feet so the proposed bridge width is not out of context in relation to the approach roadway. The replacement will also take place on a horizontal curve so a two-lane structure with the proposed width is necessary to achieve the minimum stopping sight distance safety standards.*

Comment: Check the bridge's eligibility for the California Register of Historic Places.

Response: *The Historic Resources Evaluation Report lists that the Freestone Flat Bridge was previously evaluated as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register or the California Register.*