



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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5 May 2025

Ms. Julie V. Langan
ATTN: Ms. Sherry Teal
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Project Name: Route 695 Bridge (Hamilton Road Bridge) Replacement
VDOT Project Number: 00695-054-28039410
City/County: Louisa County
DHR File Number: 2025-3852 (see also 2024-4255)
Funding: State
RE: Initiate consultation, Define APE, and identify Stakeholders for Replacement of Hamilton Road (Rte. 695) Bridge

Dear Ms. Langan:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), at the direction of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors, proposes to replace the structurally deficient Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge (Structure No. 6057) which carries Route 695/Hamilton Road over the north fork of the South Anna River in Louisa County. Due to the bridge's condition, it was closed to vehicular traffic on 10 February 2025 and remains closed. The current project is solely a state-funded effort utilizing state construction forces and does not include federal funds or a federal permit. Therefore, VDOT is consulting with the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) pursuant to the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and the terms of the existing *Programmatic Agreement Between the Virginia Departments of Transportation and Historic Resources Concerning Interagency Project Coordination* executed in 1999 (1999 State PA).

Project Description

The VDOT proposes replacing the structural deficient Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge with a new superstructure and modern span on the same location. The new bridge will be a modified

Warren Type truss (similar to U.S. Bridge Company fabricated “Cambridge flat truss”; see Attachment A) which gives the closest appearance to the existing bridge available to VDOT. The VDOT will install the new bridge on the existing abutments which will require minor modifications and repairs to accommodate the new bearing devices. Work on the approaches will be minimal and limited to approximately 10 feet on each end and will result in no changes to elevation. There will be no increase in pavement width and the open roadway will remain 12 feet wide. When completed, the new bridge will be able to handle all legal loads to include modern emergency and fire vehicles, farm equipment, and school buses.

Description of Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge

The subject bridge (DHR Inventory No. 054-5010) is a one-lane, single-span riveted steel Pratt pony truss bridge with steel I-beam substructure constructed in either 1917 (based on the date of the bridge plans) or 1929 (based on the date provided on the survey form). It measures approximately 83 feet long and 12 feet wide. The I-beams are supported underneath by steel I-beams running perpendicular to the main beam supports as well as steel cross pieces. Supporting the bridge at either end is a poured concrete abutment. The approaches to the bridge are asphalt and the bridge’s deck consists of wooden planks with low wooden rails running along the base of the trusses as well as two metal pipes affixed directly to each truss acting as guardrails (see Attachment B).

Although unremarkable and lacking individual distinction, the structure is within the boundary of the Green Springs Rural Historic District (DHR Inventory No. 054-0111), a property listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and designated by the National Park Service as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1974. The Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge retains its historic rural setting indicative of the district itself. The structure falls within the district’s period of significance and is a remnant of the historic transportation infrastructure that allowed farmers to transport agricultural products to a wider market, which in turn contributed to the overall economy of the Green Springs area. For these reasons the Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge, although not specifically mentioned in the 1974 NHL nomination, is considered by VDOT as a contributing resource to the Green Springs Rural Historic District.

Previous Project Consultation

In May 2012, VDOT, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), initiated consultation with DHR pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulation 36 CFR Part 800, for the replacement of the Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge (see DHR Project Review No. 2012-1571). As part of that process, VDOT identified several organizations and individuals with demonstrated interests in the undertaking and invited them to participate as consulting parties. After a series of consulting parties’ meetings on the undertaking (December 2012 and February 2013), with additional coordination among VDOT, DHR, and the consulting parties on the identification of historic properties, project alternatives, and project effect, DHR concurred with VDOT District on 5 December 2013 that the planned bridge replacement would have an adverse effect on the Green

Springs Rural Historic. The adverse effect determination precipitated the development and circulation of four drafts of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), an additional in-person meeting, and two conference calls with the consulting parties (23 July 2014; and 21 May 2015 and 28 October 2015, respectively). In the end, however, consensus among the parties could not be reached. In June 2016, VDOT made the decision to forego the proposed bridge replacement and instead reduce the maximum loading for the bridge and continue ongoing maintenance as necessary. Since that time, the structure was closed to traffic from 24 May 2023 to 21 August 2023 and underwent replacement of a deteriorated floor beam in the summer of 2023. However, despite this repair, the bridge's structural deficiencies identified in 2012 remained. This was shown on 10 February 2025 when Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge was closed again after an inspection revealed continuing deterioration to several floor beams supporting the deck. The structure remains closed to traffic.

At the request of Louisa County, in the summer of 2024 VDOT initiated a study to evaluate options aimed at addressing the functionality of the Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge. The options discussed were guided by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors' resolution of 6 March 2023 requesting VDOT to "undertake a project to address the structure at Hamilton Road over the South Anna River" that will "deliver a structure that can safely convey vehicular traffic including but not limited to emergency vehicles and equipment." The VDOT contracted the Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN) at the University of Virginia to serve as a facilitator for a series of stakeholder meetings on the bridge study. The goal of the meetings was to help stakeholders and VDOT reach an informed decision concerning the future disposition of Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge. Three stakeholder meetings were held on 10 July 2024, 30 January 2025, and 26 March 2024. After carefully considering the views and concerns of the stakeholders, and balancing the need for a safe and reliable structure to carry Hamilton Road /Route 695 across the South Anna River with the historical importance of the existing bridge and Green Springs Rural Historic District, VDOT has determined that the most viable solution to meet the County's stated goal in its 6 March 2023 resolution is to replace the Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge with a modern structure on its current location.

Identified Stakeholders

Although neither the SERP process nor the State PA contain provisions or requirements for public involvement, due to the demonstrated interest in the treatment of the Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge and potential project impacts on the Green Springs Rural Historic District shown by the local community during the Section 106 project consultation in 2012 to 2016, VDOT believes it desirable to engage with the public on the present bridge replacement project. We have used the consulting parties list developed for the previous undertaking to invite organizations and individuals to participate as stakeholders in the current process. During the bridge study process, other individuals not originally included in the earlier consultation expressed interest in participating. As a result, VDOT added them to the list of stakeholders. The identified stakeholders are:

- Historic Green Springs, Inc.

- Louisa Historical Society
- National Parks Service (NPS)
- Louisa County Administrator
- Louisa County Board of Supervisors
- Louisa County Planning and Zoning Department
- Louisa County Rescue Squad
- Fire and EMS
- Louisa Public Schools
- Farm Bureau
- Troy Lamb (Hamilton Road Resident)
- Tori and Bryan Hinnant (Hamilton Road Residents)
- Megan and Mason Lecky (Hamilton Road Residents)
- Melinda McCall (Hamilton Road Resident)
- Dick Havasy (Hamilton Road Resident)
- Chad Hensley (Hamilton Road Resident)
- Karen Hulebak (Green Springs Resident)
- Amanda Welch (Green Springs Resident)

Please note, FHWA and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which were both involved in the 2012 to 2016 consultation, are not included in the current list of stakeholders because the current project is state-funded and not subject to review under Section 106.

Area of Potential Effects

Pursuant to the 1999 State PA and consistent with 36 CFR §800.4(a)(1), VDOT has defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project as the construction footprint required for the removal of the existing bridge and installation of a new structure, as well as the immediate viewshed of the existing Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge within the Green Springs Rural Historic District (see Attachment C). This APE is identical to the one which VDOT recommended for the previous federal undertaking and which DHR concurred with on 6 May 2013.

Historic Property Identification

The project APE was first comprehensively surveyed by VDOT consultant Cultural Resources, Inc. (CRI) in March 2013 for the original undertaking to replace Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge. The consultant summarized the survey results in a report titled “An Architectural Survey for the Hamilton Road Bridge Replacement, Louisa County, Virginia” (4 April 2013). In the report, CRI documented three historic architectural properties within the APE. These properties were the Green Springs Rural Historic District (DHR No. 054-0111), VDOT Structure No. 6057 (DHR No. 054-5010), and The Glass House, 1611 Hamilton Road (DHR No. 054-5043; see Attachment D). The Green Springs Rural Historic District is listed in the VLR, the NRHP, and designated an NHL. VDOT Structure No. 6057, which is the Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge, VDOT determined not to be individually eligible for listing in the VLR/NRHP but is

contributing to the historic district. The VDOT similarly recommended The Glass House as not individually warranting VLR/NRHP listing, however, it does contribute to the Green Springs Rural Historic District. The DHR concurred with these recommendations on 6 May 2013.

Since it has been over five years since the APE has been surveyed, VDOT will contract one of our on-call consultants to conduct an architectural survey of the project APE and to update the documentation and findings of the previous 2013 identification efforts. The VDOT will consult with DHR and the stakeholders on the architectural survey when completed.

As in 2013, a review of DHR's Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) identified no previously recorded archaeological sites within the project APE. The minimal construction footprint required for this project is characterized by previous ground disturbance associated with construction of the existing road and installation of underground utilities. Therefore, VDOT does not anticipate that any intact, significant archaeological resources will be affected by the bridge replacement and no additional archaeological survey is recommended. An identical recommendation regarding the need for archaeological investigation was made by VDOT in 2013 and DHR agreed with this assessment on 6 May 2013.

The VDOT requests DHR concur with the APE, list of stakeholders, and our recommendation that no additional archaeological survey is warranted by signing the attached signature page.

If you have any questions, please contact me at marc.holma@vdot.virginia.gov or (804) 371-6710.

Sincerely,



Marc E. Holma
Statewide Architectural Team Leader
Virginia Department of Transportation

Enclosures (4)

C: Forwarded electronically to the stakeholders

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources concurs with the Virginia Department of Transportation's recommendations below for VDOT's project to replace the Hamilton Road/Route 695 Bridge (Structure No. 6057), Louisa County (VDOT Project Number: 00695-054-28039410; DHR File Number: 2025-3852):

- The list of identified Stakeholders.
- The definition of the Area of Potential Effects (APE).
- No additional archaeological survey is warranted for the project as currently designed.

Ms. Julie V. Langan
Director, Department of Historic Resources
Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

ATTACHMENT A: U.S. Bridge Company “Cambridge Flat Truss”



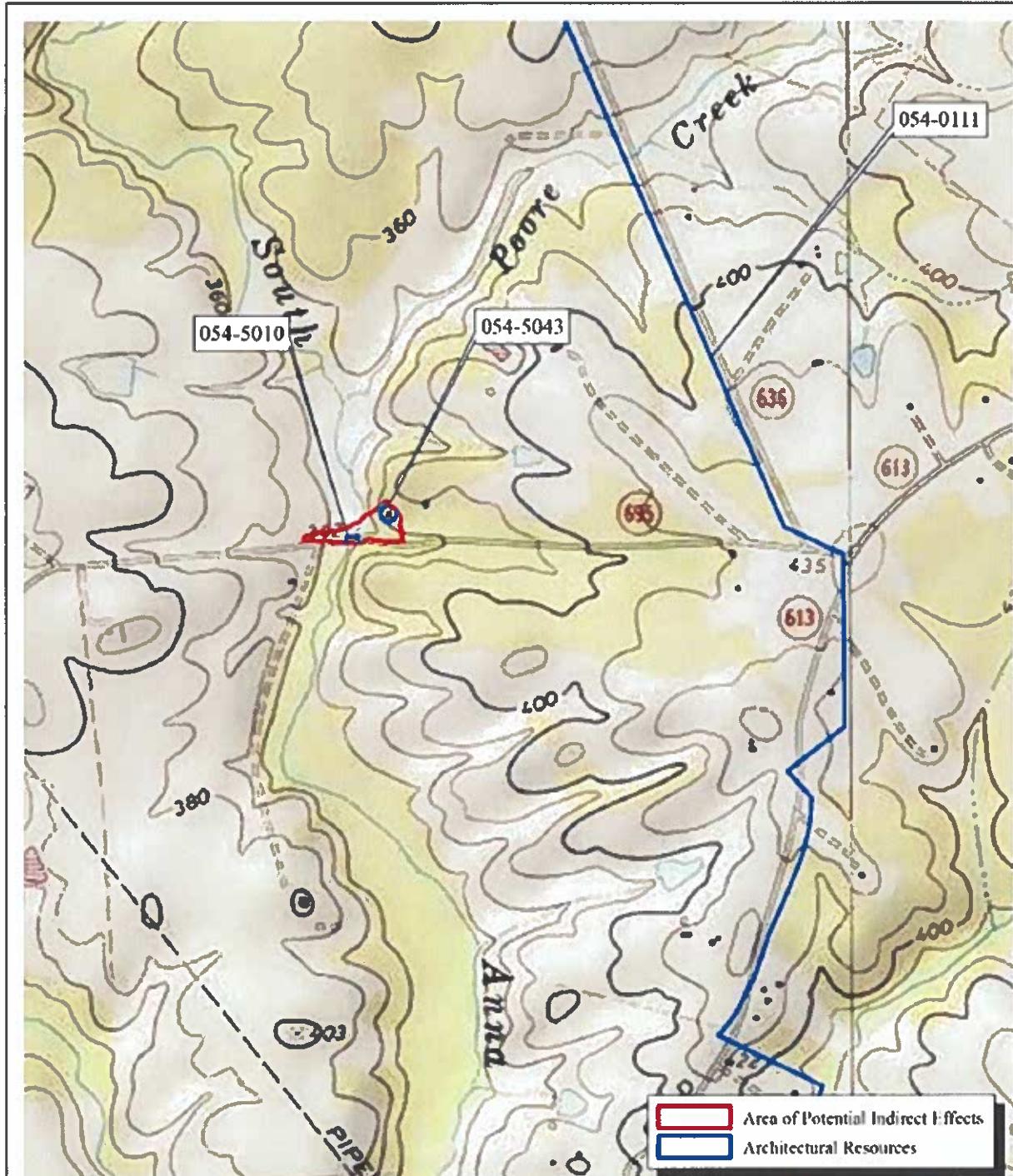
ATTACHMENT B: Hamilton Road (Route 695) Bridge



ATTACHMENT C: APE Map



ATTACHMENT D: Previously Identified Historic Properties in APE



0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet



County: Louisa
Quad: Boswells Tavern, Louisa