

## RESOLUTION 2006- 78

### A RESOLUTION DETAILING THE CITY OF FRUITA'S POSITION REGARDING THE PRESERVATION OF THE OLD FRUITA BRIDGE

**WHEREAS**, the Old Fruita Bridge was originally constructed between 1906-1908 with three 160 foot spans and remained in service until approximately 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, the Old Fruita Bridge is the only remaining Parker through-Truss style bridge in Colorado and possibly the western United States and as such has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the Colorado Historic Bridge Inventory; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fruita took ownership of the bridge in 1998 from Mesa County via a quit claim deed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fruita Historic Preservation Board and several other historic preservation bodies have stated strong support for any effort to keep the bridge from being demolished and have stated their support to eventually have the bridge restored; and

**WHEREAS**, at least three structural analyses have been performed on the bridge and several bonafide attempts have been made to rehabilitate the structure into a pedestrian bridge that would meet many goals of the community; however the cost of repair exceeded funds that were available; and

**WHEREAS**, in late 2005 significant pier failure was observed and a variety of options ranging from bridge demolition to bridge reconstruction were investigated by the City of Fruita; and

**WHEREAS**, in early 2006 the City received a quote to demolish and remove the bridge at an approximate cost of \$200,000 and a quote to stabilize the bridge piers at an approximate cost of \$390,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Old Fruita Bridge was discussed in detail and a motion was passed at the November 7, 2006, City Council meeting and the City Council desires to clarify the motion made at that meeting and specifically detail the City of Fruita's commitment to the bridge and outline a course of action to be taken by the City.

#### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FRUITA CITY COUNCIL, THAT:**

**SECTION 1:** It is the City of Fruita's preferred option and stated goal to permanently stabilize the Old Fruita Bridge such that it can eventually be fully rehabilitated and used as a pedestrian access across the Colorado River to access a variety of existing and future trails.

**SECTION 2:** City Staff has been directed to submit a permit application to the Army Corp of Engineers and to take other action as needed to temporarily stabilize the northern most pier of the bridge with boulders, rip rap, or other suitable materials. The City Council understands that this project is anticipated to cost approximately \$20,000-\$30,000 and is designed to be a temporary stabilization of the pier and bridge, not a permanent solution. The temporary stabilization is designed to greatly decrease the amount of scouring and erosion around the pier; but, due to the nature of the stabilization project, there is no guarantee how long this temporary stabilization will be effective.

**SECTION 3:** The City of Fruita will commit \$100,000 of budgeted funds in 2007 that can be used for a project that will permanently stabilize the bridge piers, or as a match to a grant that can

fund a permanent stabilization project. The City will encourage Mesa County to contribute \$100,000 to this effort as well to make a total of \$200,000 of local government funds that can be used for a permanent stabilization project. It is understood by all, that a permanent stabilization project for the piers will likely cost in the range of \$390,000 and will not, by itself, make the bridge usable. It will, however, prevent the bridge from becoming a public safety hazard and will allow for a phased approach to be used to completely rehabilitate the bridge in the future.

**SECTION 4:** The Fruita City Council hereby appoints Councilman Ken Henry to lead an effort to raise grant dollars and other contributions to fund the proposed permanent stabilization project. Councilman Henry will report back to the City Council on April 17, 2007 and will provide an update as to the fund raising effort. Utilizing the information received at that update, and any other pertinent information the City Council requests, the City Council will provide direction to staff to 1) proceed with a permanent bridge stabilization project 2) proceed with a project to remove the bridge or 3) continue to investigate alternatives. Depending on the direction provided by the City Council in April, the (anticipated) six month Army Corp permitting process may be started (for either demolition or stabilization) thus allowing work to begin approximately December 2007.

**SECTION 5:** It is the intention of the City of Fruita to be a key partner in the permanent stabilization and rehabilitation project. However, understanding the financial constraints of the city and the potential costs of this project, the City of Fruita will not commit to bearing the entire burden/cost of the stabilization or rehabilitation projects. The City of Fruita will look to a variety of partners to help bring this desired project to fruition.

**SECTION 6:** If at anytime the Old Fruita Bridge becomes a safety hazard and presents a danger to the health and safety of the community, all appropriate measures will be taken to eliminate that risk.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE FRUITA CITY COUNCIL  
THIS 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2006**

Attest

City of Fruita

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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E. James Adams, Mayor