

Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2007 7:03 AM
Subject: Fruita Bridge Update

Dear Friends of the Fruita Bridge,

At last we have some good news on the effort to save the Old Fruita Bridge.

The Corp of Engineers has received the last of the written comments concerning the current application to protect the North Pier from further erosion or scouring by the river. They indicated the permit should be forth coming this week or next.

The only remaining obstacle is obtaining permission from the land owner to access the river and the bridge pier. He is not a supporter of the "saving effort" but we are hopeful of reaching an agreement shortly.

Assuming these efforts will be successful the work will progress in the next few weeks.

As a reminder and update for the new "Friends" the entire project is now broken into several phases.

First phase is to place rip rap or large rocks upstream from the North Pier in order to redirect the river away from the pier and accordingly reduce the scouring effect. This phase is proceeding now and is scheduled for completion by late March or early April, certainly before the winter snow run off starts. The cost of the phase is estimated at \$25,000 - \$30,000, with the City of Fruita budgeting to cover the entire cost.

Second phase is the rehabilitation or reconstruction of both the North and South piers. This would entail placing piling around the North pier and creating a new pier around the existing pier. Due to the "historical" nature of the pier the modification will need approval of the appropriate historical entities.

The application for phase two would be submitted late spring this year with the intended construction to occur in the winter of 2007/2008. The estimated cost is placed at \$400,000 of which the City of Fruita has budgeted \$100,000. Mesa County had previously budgeted \$100,000 for the planned removal and has been asked to apply the funding toward the restoration effort.

The remaining \$200,000 would come from grants and contributions.

Third phase would be to stabilize the bridge structure the intent of which would be to allow the bridge to stand by itself with a minimum of replacement of the decking.

Phase two and three would accomplish a bridge capable of supporting itself.

Phase four would be the installation of clear span self supporting pedestrian/ bicycle bridges, bridges that would be supported only by the existing and new piers. These pedestrian bridges would place no pressure on the existing bridge, would be pre-assembled and would take a minimum amount of on-site effort. The total current cost of these bridges is estimated at \$150,000 each, 3 spans would be needed which would bring the estimated cost to \$450,000.

This approach would require a minimum amount of renovation of the current bridge with a minimum amount of replacement of the bridge decking.

This approach would accomplish two objectives, first to save a historic structure while at the same time providing a pedestrian/bicycle structure.

Several have volunteered to assist in writing grants which is very much appreciated. Once we have the final permit in hand we will move into the next phase noted above as phase 2. Due to the time it takes to obtain the permit we feel it is advisable to start the process in mid March in order to have all of the permits and money in place a year from now.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Old Fruita Bridge.

Ken Henry