



C.E. Britton for
Linda Brown, Chairman
Marie S. Dillenbeck, Clerk

June 23, 2004

Alabama Department of Transportation
Johnny Harris, Division Engineer
PO Box 550
Guntersville, AL 35976

Dear Mr. Harris,

Subject: Skyline Bridge, Alabama Highway 117, Mentone Alabama

A request for a thorough and immediate investigation as to what can be done to make this bridge safer is made by the members of the Council of the Town of Mentone.

Because of the large number of transfer trucks, logging trucks and buses that cross this bridge daily, we are very concerned about the unsafe conditions. It is almost impossible for a large truck to enter this bridge and not cross the centerline of the highway. The line of sight coming from the east is very limited, thus causing traffic to enter the bridge without being able to see a truck on the bridge.

This was the cause of a recent accident, which left a police officer from Ider, Alabama in critical condition. Since this accident, several residents have reported near misses, including at least two of our council members. Recently, our police officers have worked a number of accidents reporting mirrors being broken off of cars as two vehicles met on the bridge. Our officer is now listing the reason for accidents on the bridge as being unsafe road conditions and these reports are forwarded to the Department of Public Safety Drivers License Division in Montgomery.

Another major concern is that three school buses cross this bridge twice a day during the school term. Also, a large number of buses come into Mentone during the summer bringing campers to camps. A bus and a truck cannot pass on the bridge. Persons new to the area do not realize the danger of this bridge. This includes many young people who are counselors for the summer camps.

The best solution would be a new and wider bridge, but the addition of the width of another lane would help also. Perhaps, when this bridge was built the traffic was such that the sharp curve was not a problem. With this being the favorite route of trucks delivering to Atlanta and other Georgia towns, it is definitely a problem now.

TOWN OF MENTONE
P.O. Box 295
5972 Alabama Highway 117
Mentone, AL 35984

ON TOP OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Phone: 256-634-4444
Fax: 256-634-9534

FORWARD TO:	
Div. Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dist. Engrs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maint.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bridge Inso.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pre. Const.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Linda Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wesley Griffith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deborah Guffey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blanche Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parry Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Trans.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil, Wgr.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equip.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

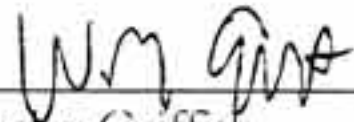
Handwritten signature and note:
see me

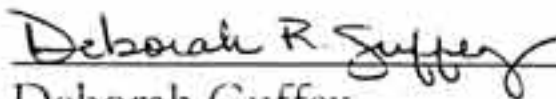
Also, we would like to request that the speed limit through Mentone be 35-mph, at least beginning at the intersection of AL 117 and CR 89 and continuing to the end of the town limits. Some places are now 45-mph, including coming up on the bridge on the west side; the east side has a caution sign with 25-mph.

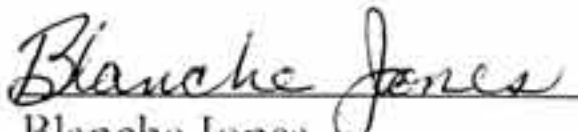
Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any questions please give us a call.


Sincerely,


Linda Brown, Mayor Pro Tem


Wesley Griffith


Deborah Guffey


Blanche Jones


Larry Sanders



ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FIRST DIVISION
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER

August 20, 2004

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

JOE MCINNES
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mrs. Linda Brown
Mayor Pro Tem
Town of Mentone
5972 Alabama Highway 117
Mentone, AL 35984

Dear Ms. Brown:

BR-0204(512)
RE: Bridge Replacement
(~~BIN-000543~~) SR-117
over West Fork of the
Little River *MP 4.977*
DeKalb County
100040785

We have received your letter regarding the "Skyline Bridge" on Alabama Highway 117. This bridge structure has been a high priority in our overall division bridge replacement program for several years.

We just recently received authorization for preliminary engineering which will allow us to begin a field survey and plans preparation. We anticipate having a consultant assigned to the design work within a couple of months.

Once the field survey is complete and a final design is accomplished, we can determine a need for additional right-of-way and more accurately determine a letting date for construction.

Your concern and request for an investigation are appreciated. We will attempt to keep you and your council members informed as the work progresses.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Johnny L. Harris
Johnny L. Harris
Division Engineer

CV/mci



STATE OF ALABAMA



LOWELL BARRON
President Pro Tempore

Alabama State House
11 South Union Street, Suite 726
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-7858
Fax: (334) 242-2278

FORWARD TO:	Action	Info
Div. Staff		
Dist. Engrs.		
Const.		
Maint.		
Traffic		
Bridge Insp.		
STATE SENATOR		
8th District		
Utility		
P.O. Box 65		
Montgomery, AL 35971		
Phone: (334) 229-2298		
Fax: (334) 229-3944		
Dist. Mgr.		
Equip.		
Training Coordinator		
RECEIVED		
Design Bureau		
Environmental		

September 27, 2004

DeKolt

Mr. Don T. Arkle
Design Bureau
Alabama Department of Transportation
1409 Coliseum Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36110

Dear Mr. Arkle,

This letter is in response to your request for review of the proposed bridge replacement along State Route 117 in the Town of Mentone (Project No. BR-204 (512)).

I fully support the immediate replacement of this bridge. This highway is heavily traveled by large trucks and has a high volume of traffic. The bridge, as you noted, was constructed in 1928, and does not readily accommodate the width or weight of today's vehicles. It is a safety hazard, as was proven in a recent accident that nearly claimed the life of one of area law enforcement officers who was off-duty at the time.

I ask that you fully review all safety considerations in re-aligning the bridge. It appears that traffic may have some difficulty/safety hazards in approaching the bridge as it presently sits in a curve. A straighter approach and wider bridge will no doubt make travel safer for all motorists who choose to travel this scenic state highway.

I appreciate your expedient consideration of this project, and if I may be of further assistance in this matter I urge you to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Lowell B.

Sen. Lowell Barron
President Pro Tem
Alabama Senate

LB/ jm

cc: Town of Mentone

Copy to

- 1st Div. Eng.
- ✓ Location
- Letters
- ✓ ETS (CM)



File
CH