



City of Havre de Grace

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Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project
Advisory Board
of the
Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace
for the
Mayor and Town Commission of Perryville

Advisory Bulletin #7
Bridge Architecture
November 18, 2014

Background

The Advisory Board, during its first meeting on October 6, 2014, determined that the overall appearance of the proposed Susquehanna River Rail Bridge is of the highest priority of importance to the Town of Perryville, City of Havre de Grace, surrounding communities, both counties, and the State of Maryland. This discussion was preceded by the strong opinion of many citizens and elected officials that bridge architecture is their most pressing concern. Advisory Bulletin #2, containing the same recommendations provided in this bulletin, was issued to the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace on October 21, 2014, and endorsed by formal Council resolution on November 17, 2014.

The new bridge complex will be a major feature of the downtown and waterfront areas of Perryville for the next century or more. It will also become the gateway to the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, being positioned at the mouth of the greatest eastern river in our nation as it flows into the world's largest estuarial bay. This new bridge should also symbolize the future of Amtrak and of rail transportation as a national asset and environmental ally, given its unique location, intense rail activity, and imposing dominance.

Architectural Recommendations

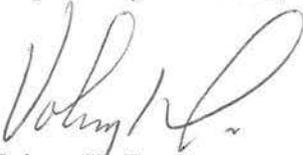
1. In the likely event that new twin bridges with two tracks each are constructed, both bridges should be identical in height and architecture, and should be aligned as closely to each other as possible to give the appearance of one bridge.

2. The bridges should be entirely open-decked, with each span having graceful shallow-arched symmetry using massive closed-webbed steel beams that present an overall solid appearance. Emphasis should be placed on pleasing lines of curvature, with properly balanced span and arch dimensions.
3. Bridge support piers should be taller, more slender, and spaced farther apart than the existing piers to improve navigation and open up the viewscape.
4. Both bridges should be carried on the same elongated pier structures to emphasize the appearance of "one bridge" and to better resist river-borne collisions.
5. The catenary system should be suspended from a series of single, architecturally graceful solid-form towers mounted directly on the piers between the bridges, with high-line arms at the very top and wide catenary arms extending in cantilever over the double-track bridge decks along both sides. This will do much to reduce the visual effect of catenary "clutter" while emphasizing the towers as central architectural features of the bridge complex.
6. The bridges and towers should be painted in a light metallic color, such as a golden platinum, to produce a distinctive daytime natural glow from great distances.
7. The entire bridge span, as viewed from upriver and downriver, should be provided with night-time accent lighting to create a warm glow along the outer face of each of its arches, in such a way that subtle arches of light are always visible at night.
8. All existing piers and abutments, whether supporting the current bridge or the previously removed rail/automobile bridge, should be removed down to the river bed to eliminate clutter, enhance the viewscape, and greatly improve barge and boat navigation.

Recommended Action

The Advisory Board proposes that the Mayor and Town Commission of Perryville consider these recommendations under a formal resolution, communicating the same to the SRRBP project team, as typical of the style of architecture the Town of Perryville and surrounding communities would expect and want to embrace. The recommendations of this advisory, having been submitted previously as Advisory Bulletin #2 and tailored to the perspective of Havre de Grace, should require no additional action on its part at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Volney H. Ford
Chairman

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF PERRYVILLE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURSUE CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER RAIL BRIDGE PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace on September 15, 2014, created the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project Advisory Board by Resolution 2014-07 (“Board”); and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Raymond A. Ryan, III, was appointed as the Town of Perryville representative to the Board created by the City of Havre de Grace; and

WHEREAS, the Board has created a number of advisory bulletins that the City of Havre de Grace has, by Resolution, authorized the Mayor of Havre de Grace to pursue; and

WHEREAS, the Board has created Advisory Bulletins Nos. 7 and 9 with specific recommendations directed to the Mayor and Commissioners of Perryville; and

WHEREAS, Advisory Bulletins Nos. 7 and 9 are attached to this Resolution and marked Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners of Perryville have determined that Advisory Bulletins Nos. 7 and 9 should be made available to the public for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners of Perryville have determined that it is in the best interest of the Town that the Mayor be authorized to pursue the recommendations that appear in the Advisory Bulletins attached to this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF PERRYVILLE as follows:

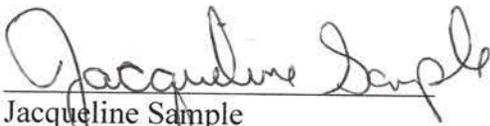
- A. The Board’s Advisory Bulletins applicable to the Town of Perryville shall be made available on the Town’s website for public review and comment. They are:
 1. Advisory Bulletin No. 7, November 28, 2014, “Bridge Architecture.”
 2. Advisory Bulletin No. 9, December 9, 2014, “River Navigation.”

- B. The Mayor and Commissioners endorse and support in concept the Recommendations set forth in Advisory Bulletin No. 7 and Advisory Bulletin No. 9.
- C. The Mayor is authorized to work collaboratively with the City of Havre de Grace to pursue the recommendations that appear in the Advisory Bulletins with Amtrak, the Maryland Department of Transportation and other affected parties.
- D. The Town Administrator shall send copies of this Resolution to the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace, the Maryland Department of Transportation and Amtrak.

READ AND PASSED THIS 6TH day of January, 2015.

ATTEST:

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF
THE TOWN OF PERRYVILLE



Jacqueline Sample
Town Clerk

By: 

James L. Eberhardt, Mayor