

The Rededication

On **September 13, 2009**, the Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners and Citizens for the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy hosted an official **“Rededication Ceremony”** where local dignitaries, the Road Commission staff, Conservancy members, friends and neighbors gathered to officially rededicate the **East Delhi Bridge** into service for the Washtenaw County community.

Many thanks go out to area residents, Scio Township, local officials, the Washtenaw County Road Commission, and Citizens for the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy for their tireless and cooperative efforts. These individuals understood the benefits a **beautiful and historic truss bridge** has to offer to the community. Thanks to their efforts, this bridge has undergone rehabilitation and is ready to serve light vehicular traffic for generations to come.

Special Acknowledgments

A special **thank you** goes out to these and many other individuals who generously contributed their time, talent, and support to this project.

Citizens for the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy

Huron Clinton Metropark Authority

Michigan Department of Transportation

Scio Township

Consulting Firms

ASTI Environmental
Dixon Engineering
G2 Consulting Group
H.H. Engineering
Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers
Mead & Hunt

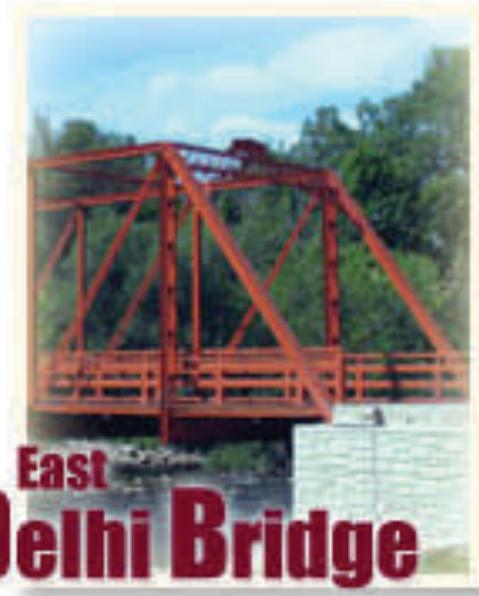
Washtenaw County Road Commission & Staff

David E. Rutledge, Chair
Douglas E. Fuller, Vice Chair
Fred Veigel, Member
Steven Puuri, Managing Director
Roy D. Townsend, P.E.,
Director of Engineering &
County Highway Engineer
Kelly Jones, P.E.,
Bridge Engineer &
Project Manager
Aaron L. Berkholz, P.E.,
Construction Supervisor
Chet Brzys, Inspector

Rededication

CEREMONY

September 13, 2009
5-8 p.m.



Rededication

HOSTED BY

Citizens for the

East Delhi Bridge Conservancy

WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

THE HISTORY

The **East Delhi Bridge**, located in the village of Delhi Mills west of Ann Arbor, is one of the few drive-through truss wrought iron bridges in Michigan that is still in use. Another is the Foster Road Bridge, just a short drive to the east along Huron River Drive. Both of these bridges are of the same design, known as a Pratt truss. Pratt trusses are built with the trusses above the bridge deck, with vertical beams for compression and horizontal beams to respond to tension forces. The Delhi and Foster Road bridges were built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, one of the largest bridge builders in the United States in the 19th century. While the Wrought Iron Bridge Company manufactured and sold thousands of similar bridges across the country, the Delhi and Foster Road Bridges are the only two Pratt truss bridges the company sold in Michigan that are still in use in their historic locations.



EAST DELHI BRIDGE AND MILL (CIRCA 1890)

When the Delhi Bridge was originally erected in the village of Delhi Mills in 1888-1890, the surrounding community of Delhi Mills was a booming mill town. With the coming of electricity, the mills closed, although the small residential community in Delhi Mills continued to flourish. On June 6, 1917, a tornado swept through Delhi Mills, destroying or damaging many homes. It also severely damaged the bridge, twisting it, lifting it off its abutments and throwing it into the river. In 1918, the bridge was put back over the river. There is some controversy whether the original bridge was repaired or a similar bridge of the same vintage was erected in its place.

Since 1917, other than periodic decking replacement, only minor changes have been made to the bridge. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic in 2005, and the rehabilitation and reopening of the bridge has been made possible through the efforts of residents, local government, and the Washtenaw County Road Commission, as well as contributions by the Kellogg Foundation and the Huron Clinton Metropark Authority. Washtenaw County designated the bridge a local historic district in 2007.



EAST DELHI BRIDGE AS IT EXISTS TODAY

It is the only bridge in Michigan with this designation. In 2008, the bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, based on design and construction significance. The rehabilitation of this historic bridge has been done in a manner consistent with historic preservation, while ensuring the safety of the public. - Citizens for the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy

EAST DELHI BRIDGE



EAST DELHI BRIDGE (CIRCA 2000)

Current Day Conditions and Needs

In June of 2005, an annual inspection was conducted by the **Scott Civil Engineering Company** on the one-lane **East Delhi Bridge**, which revealed severe deterioration, as the structure had steadily deteriorated to the point of failure. The **Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC)**, responsible for maintaining the safety of 111 bridges throughout the county, immediately CLOSED the East Delhi Bridge to all but pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

By 2006, the Road Commission completed an Environmental Assessment through consultant, **Mead & Hunt**, and began meeting with Scio Township officials and local residents to determine the best replacement option for the bridge. Area residents petitioned the Road Commission to rehabilitate the bridge in lieu of its replacement.

After numerous meetings between the Washtenaw County Board of Road Commissioners, WCRC staff, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), local officials, and the East Delhi Conservancy, the MDOT authorized the use of Local Bridge Program (LBP) funds for the rehabilitation of the East Delhi Bridge.

In December 2006, the Road Commission and Scio Township hired **HH Engineering, LTD** to provide design services for the East Delhi Bridge rehabilitation project.

Project Funding

Construction cost to rehabilitate the bridge totaled \$1.2 million; plus an additional \$60,000 for preliminary design and engineering, and \$120,000 for materials testing, inspection, and fees. The Michigan Department of Transportation's **Local Bridge Program (LBP)** covered 95% of the \$1.2 million construction costs. The remaining 5% was covered by the Road Commission, **Citizens for the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy**, the **Huron Clinton Metropark Authority**, and **Scio Township**. **Delhi Mills residents** agreed to cover the cost of bridge maintenance with a special assessment tax.

The East Delhi Bridge is the first in the state to utilize LBP funds for the rehabilitation of a one-lane bridge.

The Rehabilitation

Bridge rehabilitation work began in July 2008, and included the restoration of the existing steel truss, new abutments with wingwalls, and the installation of new traffic signals at each end of the bridge. The project also included many context sensitive designed aesthetics, such as natural field stone for riprap, textured concrete abutments, and colored surface sealer. Minor approach work was required, as well as installation of new guardrails.

In August 2008, cranes hoisted the East Delhi truss off its old abutments and set it to the northeast side



CRANES SETTLE REPAIRED TRUSS, JULY 2009

of the Huron river for repair and repainting. Workers began the installation of new abutments on both sides of the river.

Triumphantly, in July 2009, the reverse process was used as cranes settled the repaired truss onto its new abutments. Work completed over the past year included removal and reconstruction of the bridge foundations, structural steel upgrades, cleaning / painting of the truss bridge, reconstruction of the road approaches, installation of a new timber deck and bridge railing, traffic signal installation, asphalt paving of the road approaches and bridge deck, and restoration of the site. With the installation of approach guardrails, the East Delhi Bridge was reopened to vehicular traffic in August 2009. The one-lane bridge now has traffic lights controlling how vehicles can cross the river.

Citizens for the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy *mission statement...*

Preserve the aesthetics of the historical East Delhi Bridge by maintaining its original one-lane design, retaining its classic trestle structure, and recognizing it as a "Historic Landmark".

Protect the natural beauty of the Huron River corridor by preventing unnecessary and unwanted construction of a new two-lane bridge at one of Michigan's most scenic locations.

Promote the safety of our community by upgrading the structural integrity of the East Delhi Bridge for the safe and slow passage of vehicles in harmony with pedestrians and bicycles.

"The original mission statement is accomplished in full. Good job team!"

- Scott Hedberg, East Delhi Conservancy

The East Delhi Bridge Conservancy contributed over \$58,000 towards project engineering feasibility, design and construction, \$50,000 of which was in the form of a grant from the **Kellogg Foundation**.

Gov. John B. Swainson Award

Three local officials have been recognized by the State Historical Commission for their efforts to preserve the East Delhi Bridge.

Kelly Jones, a Bridge Engineer with the WCRC; **Roy Townsend**, Director of Engineering and a County Highway Engineer; and **Rich Cook**; a scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency office in Ann Arbor; were honored with the **Gov. John B. Swainson Award** for working cooperatively as a team to coordinate the efforts of the Road Commission, Scio Township, the East Delhi Bridge Conservancy, and the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to save the bridge.

Cook worked with Jones and Townsend as well as local residents to set forth a mission for the bridge. Townsend and Jones worked with the MDOT to have Local Bridge funds used to help restore the bridge rather than replace it. In June 2007, the East Delhi bridge was declared a local historic district, affording it added protection.

The fact that the Delhi bridge was rehabilitated and not replaced is "due in no small part to these three civil servants... willing to work outside the box of their normal job descriptions", notes the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission.

A Special Appreciation

"Early on this renovation project was not possible due to federal funding limitations; however the East Delhi Conservancy persevered, so we were able to renovate this 120 year old bridge and celebrate this wonderful accomplishment. Much of the credit for saving this bridge goes to Representative Byrnes, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the County Commission, Scio Township, the East Delhi Conservancy, and the Road Commission"

- Steven Puuri, WCRC Managing Director