



National Preservation Institute

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Historic Bridges: Management, Regulations, and Rehabilitation

Seminar Overview

Historic bridges represent a significant inventory of America's engineering heritage. Learn bridge typology and history. Discuss impacts on resources, avoidance of adverse effects, and alternatives and solutions. Explore how a collaborative team approach to rehabilitation projects benefits the regulatory and design process through interactive exercises. Discuss rehabilitation techniques that will meet engineering and historic standards. Review how to successfully navigate the requirements of the NEPA, Section 106, and Section 4(f) processes.

Bridge history and types

- Overview of bridge types
- Creating a statewide inventory and programmatic agreements
- Program comment for post-1945 steel and concrete bridges
- What makes a bridge historic?

The collaborative process

- Project success and streamlining through engineer and historian collaboration

Regulatory overview and requirements

- NEPA
- Section 106
- Section 4(f)

Developing a historic bridge project under NEPA, Section 106, and 4(f)

- Process overview for historic bridge project development
- Development of project purpose and need
- Development of project alternatives
- Data collection
- Engineering and historic standards
- Evaluation criteria
- Evaluation of project alternatives

Interactive exercises

Decisionmaking and documentation

- Overview
- Adverse effect vs. no adverse effects
- Basis for Section 4(f) decisionmaking

Process recap

- Process overview: NEPA, Section 106, and 4(f)
- Key decision points
- Key decisionmakers
- Risk management

Developing and using management plans

- Management plan uses
- Management plan content
- Implementation and tracking commitments

Interactive exercises

Rehabilitation case studies

- Creative approaches
- Successful examples
- Lessons learned

Resources and final questions

- Process questions
- Guidance documents and training
- Resources