

10 Most Endangered Historic Places

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota ❖ www.mnpreservation.org

2010



Dodd Ford Bridge of Blue Earth County was constructed in 1901 to assist in transporting farm equipment and goods over the Blue Earth River to Amboy. For several decades, the bridge connected farmers and their products to the regional marketplace that was linked via railroads and highway to this small, Southern Minnesota farming community. The area surrounding the bridge has been a recreation site for generations, providing fishing, nature viewing, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding and boating pursuits amidst a backdrop of the river banks, trees, lush vegetation, and farm fields.

The bridge lost its vitality in the 1940s and '50s as farm machinery increased in size and the State Highway 30 bridge was built a few miles north to accommodate the larger machinery and heavier traffic. Threatened with replacement since the 1970s, the Dodd Ford Bridge is believed to be the only metal truss bridge in the county, and one of only a few remaining camelback truss bridges in the state.

The Dodd Ford Bridge Preservation Society has submitted a rehabilitation proposal to the Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners, and has attracted financial and technical support to reopen the historic bridge. However, without permission by the county board to pursue rehabilitation plans, the residents of Amboy risk losing a structure that has been integral to their livelihood and lifestyle for more than a century.

Action Steps

1. Contact the Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners and urge the county to allow the Dodd Ford Bridge Preservation Society to move forward with the grant it has sought from the Minnesota Historical Society. www.co.blue-earth.mn.us/
2. Express your support for bridge preservation to local officials, including state legislators.
3. Learn more about the significance of historic bridges by reading up on the topic. One good resource is *Wood, Concrete, Stone and Steel: Minnesota's Historic Bridges* by Denis Gardner.
4. Vote for the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's "Preserve to the Power of 10" projects vying for a Pepsi Refresh Grant. Dodd Ford Bridge was the winner of the 2010 seed grant and the Pepsi grant will help fund the seed grant.



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Dodd Ford Bridge