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EEO/AA Employer

September 15, 2016

Mr. Ben L. Hark
Environmental Section Head
Engineering Division
WV Division of Highways
1334 Smith Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

RE: Capon Bridge Replacement Project, Hampshire County, West Virginia
State Project #: S314-50-31.02 00
Federal Project #: STP-0050(318)D
FR#: 16-945-HM-1

Dear Mr. Hark:

We have received the report titled "Architectural Survey for the Capon Bridge Replacement Project, Hampshire County, West Virginia," that TRC Environmental Corp. (TRC) prepared for the above referenced project. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

According to the report, the West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways (WVDOT) proposes to replace the existing Capon Bridge carrying State Route 50 over the Cacapon River in the town of Capon Bridge, Hampshire County, West Virginia. The new bridge will replace the existing bridge at the same location. A temporary detour will be constructed north of the existing bridge. The proposed project area consists of a 2.2-acre parcel within which three alternatives have been proposed.

Architectural and Bridge Resources:

We have reviewed the above-mentioned report. The following are preliminary comments regarding our opinions of eligibility. We wish to attend the planned public meeting for the Capon Bridge community. Thereafter, we will provide our final determinations and concurrences.

Research and fieldwork identified a total of twelve (12) architectural and bridge resources within the undertaking's direct and indirect areas of potential effect (APE). Previous surveys identified three of those resources: the Capon Bridge (HM-0802); the Gertrude Ward House (HM-0026); and the Capon Bridge Historic District (HM-0012). Along with the report, TRC submitted updated Historic Property Inventory (HPI) forms for these three properties. TRC also identified nine (9) new resources (HM-1412 through HM-1420).

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TRC recommended five (5) of the identified resources as *eligible* for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places: the Gertrude Ward House (HM-0026); the Capon Bridge (HM-0802); the Store and Post Office (HM-1413); the Capon Bridge Museum (HM-1418); and Frye's Tavern (HM-1420). The remaining seven (7) resources are recommended as *not eligible* for inclusion in the National Register. They are identified with SHPO site numbers HM-0012, HM-1412, HM-1414 through HM-1417, and HM-1419. We concur with these recommendations.

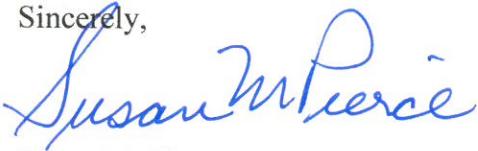
We request you provide our office with further details regarding the undertaking's plans and that you evaluate the project's potential to adversely affect the five (5) *eligible* resources listed above. We will provide additional comments upon receipt of this information.

Consulting Parties/Public Comments:

We note that your office sent letters about the proposed project to the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, the Hampshire County Historical Society, and the Hampshire County Historic Landmarks Commission on June 28, 2016. You also contacted Mayor Stephen Sirbaugh of the Town of Capon Bridge on July 11, 2016. In his July 22, 2016 response letter, Mayor Sirbaugh requested WVDOH hold a public meeting to answer questions local residents may have regarding the undertaking. This meeting will be scheduled in the near future. *We ask that you inform our office of the date, time, and location of this planned meeting in a timely manner so that representatives of our office may attend it.* We understand that any further correspondence or comments from the public will be sent to our office.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. *If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Mitchell K. Schaefer, Structural Historian, at (304) 558-0240.*

Sincerely,



Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/MKS