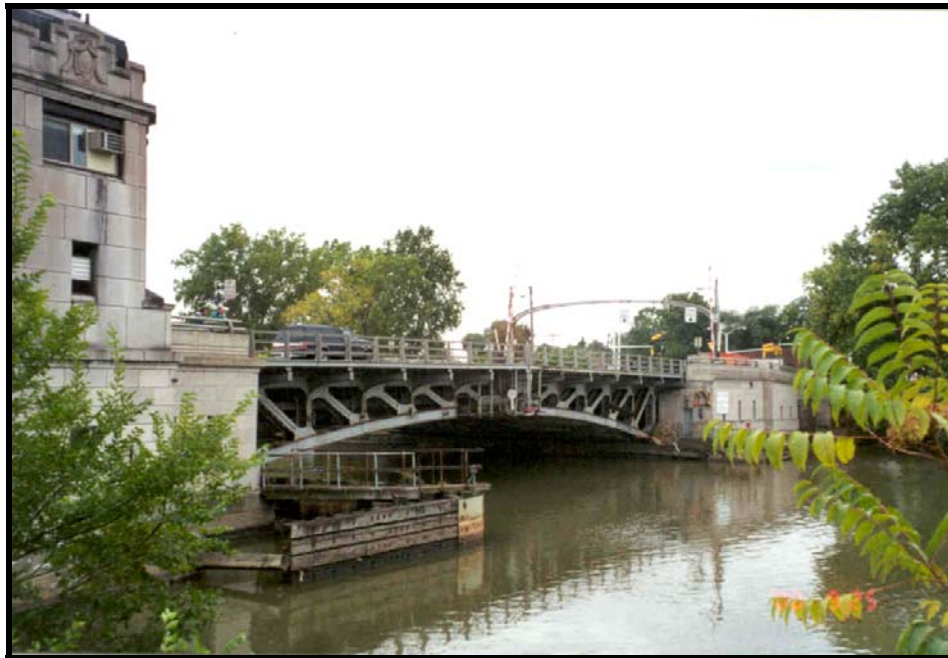


ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAMMATIC SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION

For the Proposed
Replacement of the Fort Street (M-85) Bascule Bridge
Over the Rouge River in the City of Detroit
Wayne County, Michigan



Prepared by the:



In cooperation with the

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U.S. COAST GUARD

This document has been published by authorization of the Director of the State of Michigan's Department of Transportation in keeping with the intent of the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* and subsequent implementing regulations and policies including *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964* that direct agencies to provide the public and other agencies an opportunity to review and comment on proposed projects and alternatives so that potential impacts on the project can be considered and taken into account during the decision-making process. The cost of publishing XX copies of this document at \$X per copy is \$X, and the document has been printed in accordance with *Michigan Executive Directive 1991-6*.

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and the
COOPERATING AGENCY: U.S. COAST GUARD
COOPERATING AGENCY: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

APPROVED:

Date

for the Federal Highway Administration

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PREFACE

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires that the social, economic, and natural environmental impacts of any proposed action of the federal government be analyzed for decision-making and public information purposes. There are three classes of action. Class I Actions, which are those that may significantly affect the environment, require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Class II Actions (categorical exclusions) are those that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment and do not require the preparation of an EIS or an Environmental Assessment (EA). Class III Actions are those for which the significance of impacts is not clearly established. Class III Actions require the preparation of an EA to determine the significance of impacts and the appropriate environmental document to be prepared - either an EIS or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

This document is an EA for the proposed replacement of the Fort Street (M-85) Bridge over the Rouge River in the city of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. This document describes and analyzes one alternative, and the measures taken to minimize harm to the project area. The EA will be distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies for review and comment. A public hearing on this document will then be held. If review and comment by the public and interested agencies support the determination of “no significant impact,” this EA will be forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with a recommendation that a FONSI be prepared. If it is determined that the preferred alternative will have significant impacts that cannot be mitigated, the preparation of an EIS will be required.

This document contains a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed replacement of the Fort Street Bridge, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Programmatic Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act requires that an evaluation be prepared when the proposed action may have an adverse affect on a property eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may impact publicly owned land from a park, recreation area, or wildlife/waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance. This evaluation must determine that there is no prudent and feasible alternative and that all possible measures to minimize harm are taken before the project may proceed.

This document was prepared by the Environmental Section of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), in cooperation with the FHWA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other members of the Fort Street Bridge study team. The study team includes representatives from the following divisions or support areas within the Michigan Department of Transportation: Project Planning, Design, Traffic and Safety, Real Estate, Construction and Technology, and Maintenance. Information contained in this Environmental Assessment was also furnished by other state, federal, and local agencies.

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** Construction impacts are addressed in Sections 2.1–2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 2.14, 2.15, 2.17–2.21, the Project Mitigation Summary, and Section 3.4 of the Section 4(f) Evaluation*

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