

# NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING

## REGARDING THE SECTION 106 REVIEW UNDER THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT OF THE BANCROFT PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE, ALAPOCAS RUN STATE PARK, WILMINGTON, NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE

### SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT

Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing Public Assistance funding to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) for the demolition and replacement of the Bancroft Pedestrian Bridge, located in Alapocas Run State Park, Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware. The replacement of the currently damaged bridge with a prefabricated truss bridge intends to restore functionality to the pedestrian crossing over the Brandywine Creek that was damaged during FEMA Disaster # DR-4627-DE. The regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the *Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, The Delaware State Historic Preservation Officer, The Delaware Emergency Management Agency and Delaware Nation* (Statewide PA) require FEMA to consider the effects of its funding actions on historic properties. The Bancroft Pedestrian Bridge is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a contributing resource to the Bancroft and Sons Cotton Mills Historic District (CHRIS Resource No. N03646; NRHP No. 84000439). Furthermore, the structure is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP as a rare example of a deck-type Baltimore truss bridge. The proposed demolition of the bridge constitutes an adverse effect to historic properties. The Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this determination of eligibility and finding of adverse effect, and with FEMA's intent to negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This public meeting seeks input on the proposed treatment measures identified by the consulting parties to mitigate the loss of the historic property as required under Section 106 of the NHPA. The proposed measures include:

- **Design Review**: DNREC shall provide FEMA with accurate drawings or mockups of the proposed replacement bridge design for review by consulting parties. The design shall be historically sensitive, reflecting the replacement bridge's location within the boundaries of the Bancroft and Sons Cotton Mill Historic District and on the former site of a historic deck-type Baltimore truss bridge. The proposed design shall be open for public comment for 30 calendar days to be adjudicated by the consulting parties.
- **Public Interpretation**: DNREC shall install at least two (2) interpretive signs at the subject property location; one on each side of the bridge. The signs shall include a historic narrative and images relating to the Bancroft Bridge and its context. The signs shall also include a discussion of climate change and infrastructure adaptation.

The Draft MOA and draft replacement bridge designs will be available for review at the following URL and QR code provided below, in addition to but not limited to the websites of DNREC, DEMA, and the City of Wilmington during the public comment period from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024: [DRAFT MOA Bancroft Bridge Replacement PA-03-DE-4627 #660455 | FEMA.gov](#).

The hybrid public meeting to seek public input on the Draft MOA and draft replacement bridge designs will be held in person on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Ball Barn, located at 1914 W Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19803. Members of the public who are unable to attend in person will have the opportunity to virtually attend over the Zoom meeting platform and will be accessible via computer or telephone. To access the Zoom on the computer or via smartphone or tablet application, please use the following login details: Meeting ID: 161 7640 1828, Passcode: 870595. To call in to the meeting for audio access only, dial (646) 828-7666, and enter the Meeting ID when prompted. Comments may be presented orally or submitted in writing at the public meeting, or submitted via e-mail at [fema-r3-ehp-publiccomment@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-r3-ehp-publiccomment@fema.dhs.gov) with the subject line [Bancroft Bridge MOA/Design Comment]. Comments will be accepted until May 3, 2024.

