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TO: Jeff Irwin
Chair, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Anthony VanDerworp
Director of Planning and Environment

DATE: August 1, 2007

SUBJECT: Delhi Bridge Local Historic District Designation

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners consider adoption of the proposed Local Historic District Ordinance for the Delhi Bridge, which spans the Huron River and is located in Scio Township.

BACKGROUND:

On June 5, 1974, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners adopted by resolution (074-0266) the Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Ordinance, thereby establishing the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission with a mission to protect and preserve historic resources within the County. In February, 2005 the Board of Trustees of Scio Township at their regular meeting determined that the preservation of the property consisting of the bridge at East Delhi Road over the Huron River had the potential to be nominated as a local historic district; and this property was compatible with the long-range goals of Scio Township regarding the preservation of historic resources. At this same meeting the Scio Township Board approved a resolution requesting the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, through the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, assistance in preparing the necessary studies and reviews precedent to establishing a historic district for the property located at East Delhi Bridge over the Huron River and authorized its Supervisor to execute a contract with Washtenaw County granting the County the authority to exercise jurisdiction granted by P.A. 169 of 1970 and the Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Ordinance #115 over the proposed East Delhi Bridge Historic district.

On May 18, 2005, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners consider this request and passed a resolution (05-0094) to appoint an Historic District Study Committee to evaluate the Delhi Bridge located on East Delhi Road at the Huron River, and determine if it meets the criteria to be included in an historic district. The Board of Commissioners is now requested to review and consider for adoption the Ordinance as discussed below.

DISCUSSION:

State of Michigan Local Historic Districts Act (PA 169)

Pursuant to the State of Michigan Local Historic Districts Act (PA 169 of 1970, as amended) herein referred to as the "Act", Section 399.203 (Historic districts; establishment; study committee; duties; public hearing; notice; actions; availability of writings to public) requires Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to consider the following:

- a) Whether a historic district commission has been established to oversee the proposed district, pursuant of Section 399.204 of the Act.

On June 5, 1974, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners adopted by resolution (074-0266) the Washtenaw County Historic Preservation Ordinance, and thereby established the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission. The ordinance was subsequently amended in 1975, 1988, 1999, 2000, and 2003 to remain in compliance with the Act.

- b) Whether the proposed local historic district was examined by a committee containing a majority of persons who have a clearly demonstrated interest in or knowledge of historic preservation, and contained representation from 1 or more duly organized local historic preservation organizations.

The Delhi Bridge Study Committee was established on May 18, 2005, by resolution (05-0094) of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. Committee members met or exceeded the requirements outlined in the Act.

- **Richard Cook (Chair)**
Resident of the historic village of Delhi Mills since 1990; Environmental Scientist
- **Scott Hedberg**
Landscape architect, builder, historical researcher, and a resident of Scio Township
- **Robert Kyes**
Delhi Mills resident and Professor Emeritus of the University of Michigan Department of German Languages.
- **George Miller**
Industrial Engineer who lives with his wife, Deborah Webster, on East Delhi Road just south of the bridge
- **Betty Lou Monticelli**
County employee for more than 17 years, 13 of which were spent in the Treasurer's office researching ownership and property history; BA in Communications from the University of Michigan
- **Gary Robinson**
Dexter resident, archaeologist, and consulting historic preservationist.
- **Kathleen Timberlake**
Owner of the William Burnett cobblestone house (1830s); holds a PhD in Education
- **Charles Unbehaun**
Resident north of the Huron River near Delhi Mills; Engineer with an avid interest in historic bridges
- **Deborah Webster**
Administrator with a local software development firm and, together with George Miller, owner of the historic Edgar A. Kahn log cabin located just south of the bridge on East

Delhi Road

- **Jean Ledwith King** (Advisor)
Washtenaw County Historic District Commissioner; Scio Township Trustee
- **Nancy Snyder** (Advisor)
Washtenaw County Historic District Commissioner
- **Ken Reiter** (Advisor)
Washtenaw County Road Commission Representative
- **Melissa Milton-Pung** (Staff)
Washtenaw County Department of Planning & Environment

- c) Whether the Historic District Study Committee conducted an investigation of the proposed Delhi Bridge Local Historic District in a manner compliant with the Act.

The Study Committee spent more than fourteen months researching the history and significance of the Delhi Bridge. Committee members consulted local history archives and libraries, conducted oral history interviews with knowledgeable community members, and engaged members of the local community for stakeholder participation in the investigation process. The Delhi Conservancy worked in tandem with the Study Committee to insure stakeholder participation and cultivate local support, and also established a dialogue with the Washtenaw County Road Commission regarding the rehabilitation of the Delhi Bridge.

A preliminary report was produced on August 4, 2006, which recommended local historic designation for the Delhi Bridge. The report was distributed to the public in hardcopy and electronic formats, posted online by the Department of Planning and Environment, and supplied to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, the Michigan Historical Commission, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, in accordance with the Act. As a matter of courtesy, the report was also furnished to the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Washtenaw County Planning Advisory Board, and Scio Township.

The Study Committee Report was finalized on June 15, 2007. It incorporates comments received from the public, Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, Washtenaw County Planning Advisory Board, and the Washtenaw County Road Commission, and the Department of Planning and Environment.

This report meets all requirements outlined in the Act.

- d) Whether a Public Hearing was held in compliance with the Act not less than sixty days after the transmittal of the Preliminary Report and whether copies of the report have been made available to the public, the Michigan Historical Commission, and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.

The Preliminary Study Committee Report was transmitted to the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and Michigan Historical Commission on September 27, 2006. The Preliminary Report was also provided to the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, published on the Washtenaw County website, and made available to members of the public.

In accordance with the Act, a Public Hearing was held more than sixty days after the transmission of the Preliminary Report, on April 25, 2007 at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) in Scio Township. The Delhi Conservancy worked with the Study Committee and the Department of Planning and Environment to coordinate mailing lists and contacts for public notice of the hearing. Committee members handed out flyers to local residents and interested parties, and a public notice was published in the Ann Arbor News on April 24 and 25, 2007.

In addition to members of the public, Committee members, and Washtenaw County Planning and Environment staff, members of the Washtenaw County Road Commission were also in attendance at the Public Hearing, to provide comment and participation. Furthermore, the Washtenaw County Road Commission was formally presented the proposed local historic district ordinance at their August 3 board meeting, and offered opportunity for comment. The Road Commission has communicated that they have no comments of objection or suggestion for the ordinance or the local historic district designation process.

IMPACT ON PERSONNEL:

None

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

None

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

None

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIESV

Guiding Principle No. 7 -- This project will encourage Washtenaw County Government, through the Historic District Commission, to work in cooperation with the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Scio Township, and the Delhi Conservancy to rehabilitate the historic Delhi Bridge.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES

This action conforms with County policies.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES

<u>Attachment A</u>	Delhi Bridge Local Historic District Resolution
<u>Attachment B</u>	Delhi Bridge Local Historic District Ordinance
<u>Attachment C</u>	Delhi Bridge Local Historic District Report

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE DELHI BRIDGE AS A WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 1, 2007

WHEREAS, the bridge spanning the Huron River known as Delhi Bridge in Scio Township had potential to be nominated as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Scio Township asked the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners via the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to have the property listed as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, under Michigan's Historic Districts Act (P.A. 169 of 1970, as amended in 1992), a historic district study committee must be established to evaluate the property and determine if it meets criteria to be included in a historic district; and

WHEREAS, under P.A. 169, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish such a historic district committee; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2005, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners passed resolution 05-0094 authorizing the Historic District Study Committee to study the Delhi Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary report by the study committee was issued on August 4, 2006 and on December 7, 2006 the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the proposal to create a historic district for the Delhi Bridge; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2007 a Public Hearing was held in Scio Township to discuss the proposal; and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2007 the Delhi Bridge Historic District Final Report was issued, with a recommendation that the Board of Commissioners adopt an ordinance designating the Delhi Bridge as a Washtenaw County Historic District under the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Finance, Human Resources, the County Administrator's Office and the Ways and Means Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Delhi Bridge Historic District Final Report, as on file with the County Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby adopt the ordinance designating the Delhi Bridge as a Washtenaw County Historic District under the jurisdiction of the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, as attached hereto and made a part hereof.

