



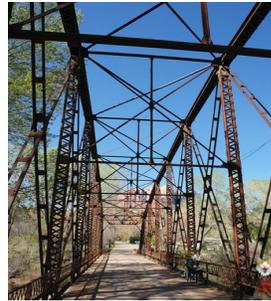
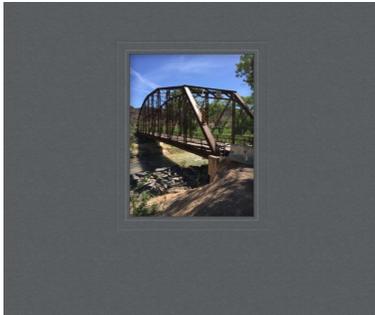
TOWN OF ROCKVILLE

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Rockville, UT 84763

Phone/Fax - (435) 772-0992

Founded 1862, Incorporated June 30, 1987



Statement of Purpose

In late 2012, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) completed a detailed inspection and evaluation of the Historic Rockville Bridge. Their inspection revealed significant deterioration and the load rating was downgraded to 14-tons. Plans were made to replace the historic bridge with a new two-lane bridge using Federal funds. In 2013, the Five County Association of Governments conducted a survey of all Rockville residents and property owners. With a 57% response rate, 74% indicated a preference to restore the existing bridge.

As a result, in 2015, the Town petitioned the Joint Highway Committee *to alter the scope of work from a new two-lane replacement bridge to a full rehabilitation of the existing bridge*. This rehabilitation would increase the load rating to its original 25-tons and add approximately 45 years to the life of the existing structure. Following a comprehensive feasibility study by Michael Baker International (SLC), and given the support of local citizens, the Joint Highway Committee and Utah's Transportation Commission approved the change to rehabilitate the Historic Rockville Bridge in June 2016.

Request to Utah State Legislature: \$100,000 Total Project Budget; \$2,500,000

Federal Highway Administration Funding for Rockville Bridge Rehabilitation is \$2,330,920

Town of Rockville Matching Funds @ 6.77% are \$169,250, *to be raised by October, 2017*

Funds Raised to Date are \$70,000 – Grants, Events, Donors, Town Allocations

Background

In March of 1923, Zion National Park was allocated a federal appropriation to identify park roads, including \$40,000 to construct a bridge on public land outside of the park boundary; the Town of Rockville was selected for this structure. Spanning the Virgin River, this single-lane, 217-foot rigid-connected Parker through truss bridge was constructed, consisting of 12 panels in a single span of steel truss supported by concrete abutments.

The Rockville Bridge performed a valuable role in the development of tourism in southwest Utah. For early Park visitors, it cut 33 miles off the trek from Zion National Park to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. It is the last surviving Parker through truss bridge in the state. Incorporating distinctive characteristics in its method of construction, it is architecturally and technologically significant. The Bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.

The Town of Rockville is considered a rural, residential, and agricultural community, with only 247 residents. Since its founding by Mormon pioneers in 1862, Rockville has maintained the integrity of its historical town plan and has been referred to by historians as "Utah's last treasure". Rockville has little commercial activity, so the tax base is primarily small.

Today the bridge serves Rockville homes on the south side of the Virgin River and recreationists accessing Gooseberry Mesa and Smithsonian Butte. Tourists, as well as historians, cross it daily to visit the Historic Town of Grafton. Rockville faces many challenges from tourism and recreational impacts, with over four million visitors annually descending upon this narrow canyon. The Rockville Bridge is a treasure and important architectural structure. It should be restored and protected for future generations.

Everyone in the community of 247 has been engaged in volunteer fundraising efforts led by Mayor Pam Leach, the Town Council and a volunteer Fundraising Committee. These include rubber ducky races, art exhibitions and auctions, change collection jars, the receipt of several grants and many other activities.

Assistance from the Utah State Legislature will ensure the preservation of this iconic structure.

Further documentation and information are available on both the Rockville Town website, [www.http://rockvilleutah.org/](http://rockvilleutah.org/), as well as Preservation Utah, www.preservationutah.org.

Support/Partnerships include: Grafton Heritage Partner Partnership, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Utah, Simmons Family Foundation, Town of Springdale, Washington County, Washington County Historical Society, Zion Canyon Arts & Humanities Council, & Zion National Park.