Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Craftsmen no longer around to repair covered bridges

Once a covered bridge is gone, it’s gone. “The craftsmen are no longer around, and the structural timber isn’t readily available any more,” according to L.S. “Steck” Bower, a third generation covered bridge builder from Flemingsburg. Bower, who has worked with the state of Ohio to keep its 165 covered bridges intact and repaired, would like to see the Kentucky structures restored and maintained.

Eldred W. Melton, executive director of the Kentucky Heritage Commission, said that preservationists across the state want Kentucky’s covered bridges saved. “Covered bridges and the craft of building them will be lost soon if effort is not made to preserve the structures,” he said. “The bridges are virtually neglected in Kentucky.”

Bower’s grandfather, Jacob Bower, built bridges in Pennsylvania and West Virginia before settling in Ohio. Three of his sons, including Louis, Stock Bower’s father, became bridge builders also. After Louis moved to Kentucky to build bridges in Fleming County, Stock was born. He is the last of the Bower bridge builders and is considered one of the few men in this country who can qualify as an expert in the reconstruction of wooden truss bridges.

Bower met with Mrs. Melton to estimate the costs for restoring Kentucky’s 16 covered bridges. “There are two categories of covered bridges — those in use and those that aren’t and never will be,” said Bower. “The ones that aren’t used would be restored for people to look at — most need roofing and some need siding. The ones that are in use need new floor systems and at least one needs an abutment.”

The veteran bridge builder said the job of restoring the structures could be extended over a five-year period. “Three bridges could be done each year. All 16 of them could be put back in good condition for about half a million dollars — about $75,000 each.”

Bower said some of the bridges are in critical need of repair. “There’s one left in Robertson County that my grandfather built in 1874. It’s just about to go in the drink — it will never carry traffic anymore, but it can be saved.

The bridge is less than 100 feet from a state highway — two spans, about 100 feet long and across Johnson Creek. Both spans are in deplorable condition.

He said the second one repaired should be Cabin Creek Bridge — about 17 miles east of Maysville on Cabin Creek in Mason County. “The bridge has just been repaired but they did a horrible job... There are two good bridges in Greenup County in use, but both are desperately in need of reconstruction. One is the Bennett Hill Bridge and the other is the Old Town Bridge, which they are planning to retire,” he said.

“The are three other bridges in Fleming County that are not in use and never will be,” said Bower. “The Buffalo Trace Tourist Council, which promotes the bridges as a local feature in its tourism program may want to assume responsibility for the bridges in that area.”

Mrs. Melton said, “If we can get some matching funds and find some county officials who will be responsible for restoring and maintaining them, we might have a chance to save them.”
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2002 - Walcott Covered Bridge - Bracken County, Kentucky

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2002 - Walcott Covered Bridge - Bracken County, Kentucky

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
2005 - Goddard Covered Bridge - Fleming County, Kentucky

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
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Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Battle brewing over bridge

The battle of the bridges in Fleming County could get even more heated.

The state is going to dismantle, remove, renovate, and rebuild the covered bridges at Goddard, Orange City, and Ringo Mill, whether they need it or not, and those of us who’ve seen the results of other similar projects are rightfully scared of what we’ll get back.

To get an idea, just drive the AA highway from Maysville north, and keep an eye out for what appears to be a mobile home stretched across a creekbed. That was an authentic, original covered bridge before it was removed, re-covered and replaced upstream from its original location.

The “White” bridge at Goddard is one-of-a-kind, the only survivor of its style, and it’s still open to traffic. It’s also the centerpiece of the annual Fleming County Covered Bridge Festival that draws upwards of 6,000 people in one day, and it’s one of the most photographed sites (or sights) in Kentucky.

Lots of us crossed the bridge twice a day to attend the old Goddard School, a

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
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Covered bridge controversy continues

Greasup County's Bennett's Mills Covered Bridge was on site at the Intech facility, undergoing the renovation process.

Everyone on the tour expressed gratitude to Intech for keeping the lines of communication open but more than one who took the tour of Intech facilities later expressed concern over what they saw.

They saw the numbers of the Bennett's Mills Covered Bridge laying exposed to the elements in a parking lot.

"I thought it would at least be inside, you know, under a roof," said Fleming Countian, Steve Donovan.

Donovan and Fleming County Tourism Committee members Marsha McCartney and Mary Jo Litten gave a report of the Intech tour to Fleming County Judge Executive Larry Foxworthy and State Representative Mike Denham Monday morning.

"The majority of Fleming Countians I have spoken to do not want the Goddard Covered Bridge moved off site," Foxworthy told Denham during that meeting.

Denham quickly set up a meeting with Rummage, Foxworthy, himself and Senator Walter Blevins for Monday afternoon to address the additional concerns the community has over the Goddard Covered Bridge restoration project and attempt to rectify the situation, "to every ones satisfaction," he said.

"The bridge project is a priority with me," Denham explained.

According to Foxworthy, that meeting went well.

"I'd say it went pretty well," he said. "Getting Intech to do what they can on site will be a big step for Fleming County. It looks like we are making progress on getting that accomplished."

Other covered bridge renovation projects have raised serious concerns in the region. Especially the Walcott Covered Bridge of Bracken County.

"I'll chain myself to the Goddard Bridge before I let them do what they did at Walcott," Donovan said matter-of-factly during the meeting with Foxworthy and Denham.

"Walcott is not the bridge it once was. Now it's a brand new bridge."

Others at the meeting and on the earlier Intech tour said Donovan's concerns over the possibility of the Goddard Covered Bridge losing its historical integrity.

"The carvings on the bridge's interior are very important to the community and will not be considered graffiti as some had thought earlier," Patrick Kennedy, restoration project manager with the Kentucky Heritage Council, said the day after the tour. "Those carvings see BRIDGE page 2"
September marks the date for bridge dismantling work

FG By Charles Mattox
News Editor

Surgery on the symbol and very heart of Fleming County is scheduled for this September. That will be when workers with Intech Contractors of Berea begin dismantling the Goddard Covered Bridge.

The entire wooden structure will be removed from its present location above Sand Lick Creek on Ky. 32, loaded onto several tractor trailers and transported to Intech’s work shop where at least thirty percent of the material currently making up the bridge will be replaced.

At least thirty percent. Perhaps much more.

“We will find more deterioration when the bridge is taken apart,” project engineer Danny Woods told a crowd of approximately two hundred concerned citizens who packed Ward Elementary School gymnasium April 22 to receive information on the project. “Our inspection [to determine the percent of material to replace] was six years ago.”

“The bridge will have the same historic character,” Jim Rummage, state highway chief engineer for District 9, said at one point, trying to calm and reassure the restless crowd.

The crowd responded as one entity, with a loud, disapproving groan.

Rummage and Woods were joined by Patrick Kennedy, restoration project manager with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Mike Hill, who assisted with funding for the project as a member of the Frankfort central office division of the Multimodal program within the transportation cabinet, and John Crace, Intech representative. The men explained all aspects of the project, fielded questions from the crowd and listened to the concerns of those present.

Stockton Wood, whose grandfather, Stockton “Stock” Bower, did much restoration work on the covered bridges of Fleming County and who last worked on the Goddard White Covered Bridge in 1968, received thunderous applause from the crowd around him when he

see BRIDGE page 2
2005 - Goddard Covered Bridge - Fleming County, Kentucky

We don't want another Walcott!

"This is not the real bridge."

That simple phrase, written inside the Walcott Covered Bridge in Bracken County, perhaps best describes the dilemma Fleming County faces as the state undertakes the restoration of the Goddard Covered Bridge.

The proposed restoration is part of the state's efforts to preserve the 13 remaining covered bridges in the commonwealth.

In 1999, the 175-year-old Walcott bridge was removed from its pillars and carted off to Lexington where county residents believed it would be dismantled, restored, rebuilt and returned to a spot crossing Louest Creek near its original location. More than three years later, a bridge was returned to the county and reconstructed near the former site of the Walcott bridge. Unfortunately, as the writer of the phrase noted, it wasn't the restored bridge Bracken Countians were expecting and believed they had been promised by the state. What they received instead was a replica, a reproduction of the Walcott bridge, one which state officials said contained little wood from the bridge which was taken down. The bridge may be pretty, but it is definitely not the real bridge.

Now, Fleming County's picturesque 1820s Goddard bridge has been targeted by the state Transportation Cabinet for restoration and area residents are understandably nervous over the prospect, considering the end result in Bracken County.

As the home to three of the unique bridges, Fleming County has been designated as the Covered Bridge Capital of Kentucky. The Goddard bridge, where the span's opening frames a small country church, is also one of the state's most photographed covered bridges. Historians and tourism officials agree the covered bridges are invaluable to the county but they are not convinced the restoration project is the best way to protect the historic structures.

A public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. today at Ward Elementary School to review and discuss plans for the Goddard Bridge. Those interested in protecting the bridges are hoping the meeting attracts a large turnout of residents to demand the state gives Fleming County assurances Bracken County did not receive.

We urge anyone interested to attend the meeting and help make sure

Concern revives covered bridge authority

By DANETTA BARKER - Staff Writer

FLEMINGSBURG - The battle of the bridge has taken another twist with the resurrection of the Buffalo Trace Covered Bridge Authority.

State Rep. Mike Denham is reviving the authority to help the communities he serves find a way to preserve the covered bridges which span the creeks and streams of Bracken, Fleming and Mason counties.

"I feel this authority is very critical to this region," Denham said. "I want this to be ongoing. We need to treat these bridges with tender loving care to last for our children and their children."

The controversy over the restoration of the Goddard White Covered Bridge in Fleming County spurred Denham to act. The bridge is set to come down after the Covered Bridge Festival Aug. 23. Residents want the bridge to be restored on-site, not taken down and moved to Lancaster where the contractor, InTech, has facilities. Denham and the newly formed committee are working to see that the community and the Transportation Cabinet are both satisfied with the results of restoration.

One of the first appointees is Stephen Donovan, a resident of Fleming County who served on the original Covered Bridge Authority.

"The authority had been around for years," Donovan said. "But it fell apart in 1995 or 96. There wasn't a tremendous amount of concern about bridges then, now there is."

Donovan said the group met a few times to discuss the restoration of the Goddard Bridge. After the recent trip to Lancaster to see how restoration is done, Donovan felt measures could be taken to maintain the rustic charm of the bridge while preserving it for future generations.

"I still think that restoring the bridge on-site is one answer to keeping the integrity of the bridge," Donovan said. "Using as many of the original boards as possible is another answer."

"We want to make everybody a winner in this situation," Donovan said. "We may not know how to do that right now but we are trying to find a way."

Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Director Mary Jo Litton

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Goddard Bridge project entering critical phase

By Charles Mattox
News Editor

“We will make critical decisions over the next few weeks which will determine how we conduct the renovation projects on Fleming County’s three covered bridges,” State Representative Mike Denham told a crowd of approximately 75 concerned Fleming Countyans who had gathered at Hillsboro Elementary School Aug. 5.

The crowd listened to current proposals regarding Kentucky Department of Transportation (DOT) projects which are designed to “preserve” the county’s covered bridges. The project scheduled to “preserve” the Goddard Covered Bridge is slated to begin Aug. 24 when Intech employees will begin disassembly of the bridge. Intech was awarded the $204,000 DOT bridge renovation contract. The contracts for restoration/renovation work to the Ringos Mills and Grange City covered bridges have not yet been awarded but soon will be. Federal funding has been made available to Kentucky DOT to help preserve the state’s covered bridges.

Nationally-recognized covered bridge authority Phil Pierce of Vermont recently inspected the Goddard Covered Bridge and informed an ad hoc committee of bridge sup-

Patrick Kennedy, restoration project manager with the Kentucky Heritage Council, continues to research Fleming County covered bridges.
SECOND OPINION ON BRIDGE WORK

On-site renovation may be option

RESTORATION OF SPAN AT GODDARD ‘AN EASY ONE TO DO IN PLACE’

Covered-bridge enthusiasts and preservationists heard Fischetti answer questions about the timbers of the bridge in Fleming County. Northwest said work will begin on the bridge next week.

Foes trade barbs over fighting conference

Procter sentenced, rescheduled

Doctor still in U.S. after trying to leave

COMPANION RELEASED AT PROCTOR'S REQUEST

By Lee Mueller
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

ASHLAND — Dr. Joel Fischetti, 49, of Cary, N.C., was sentenced to 10 years in prison yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge David H. Stone.

Fischetti was convicted of one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and one count of money laundering.

The judge said Fischetti's role in the case was significant and that he had been involved in the distribution of large quantities of cocaine.

Fischetti's attorney, John D. Burke, said his client would appeal the sentence.

Burke said Fischetti had pled guilty to all charges against him.

Fischetti was originally charged with four counts of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and one count of money laundering.

He was found guilty on all charges.

Fischetti is one of several people charged in a cocaine trafficking ring that distributed large quantities of cocaine in Kentucky and other states.

The ring was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Kentucky State Police.

Fischetti's case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Overstreet.

Overstreet said Fischetti had helped distribute cocaine to other defendants in the case.

Overstreet said Fischetti had also helped distribute cocaine to other defendants in the case.

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Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Board adopts drug testing policy for Fleming County school system

The Fleming County School board has adopted an aggressive, pro-active policy to combat student drug use. The second reading of the student drug testing policy was held during the school board’s July 6 meeting and will become policy for the coming school year. The policy will implement random, monthly drug testing for student drivers and those who participate in academic and athletic extracurricular activities.

“This is a good policy,” school board chairman Wayne Lewis said. “It’s been well thought out. It looks good to me. No one wants to violate any student’s rights, and the policy doesn’t do that. Everyone wants to protect our students and make our students and staff as safe as possible. This policy will help us do this.”

According to Fleming County Schools Superintendent Kelly Crain, the process of creating the policy has been in the works for over a year.

“We’ve been in contact with other schools who have adopted similar policies,” Crain said. “We’ve had lengthy discussion with faculty, staff, parents and site slogans or phrases will be worn.”

Crain said the change in dress code policy changes each year as part of the attendance policies implemented by the school board.

New dress code adopted for schools

Students will be showing less skin this year at Fleming County Schools due to a new dress code policy which has been enacted.

Fleming County Schools Kelly Crain said, “Sleeves must extend beyond the hem. The length of shirts will be extended and no student’s skin will be allowed to show. The students’ books must be covered.

See Drug policy, page 3
Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
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Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Estimates put Goddard restoration costs at $1 million

By Charles Mattix
Staff Writer

 Authorities say the Goddard Covered Bridge will look like a million bucks when the renovation project is completed. They also say that's about what the final cost will be for renovating the historic structure.

“The final and total cost will be about a million dollars,” Transportation Cabinet Project Manager Phil Mauney said last week. “There have been several change orders to the project since the original bid letting. Those changes are the reason for the increase in project cost.”

Two years ago the Transportation Cabinet accepted a bid from Intech Contractors for slightly over $200,000. Soon thereafter, public concern for the preservation of historic material in the bridge, particularly the graffiti-covered diagonal timbers of the Towne lattice design, led Transportation Cabinet officials to seek input from national authorities while striving to accommodate public wishes.

“Comments from the public indicate the desired change orders, and the costs associated with those change orders will be well worth it,” Mauney said of during the last renovation project 40 years ago. The new diagonal sistered members will be located next to the existing diagonal timbers and will be approximately chest high. They will connect to the bottom chord of the bridge. They will alleviate structural stress on the original timbers. The new material will be stained and will look like the older timbers. The concept for this addition was recommended by Arnold Graton and David Fischetti.”

Graton and Fischetti, two nationally recognized authorities in the field of covered-bridge construction and preservation, joined the renovation team at the request of the Covered Bridge Authority and other public interest groups.

Mauney said each phase of the change orders goes through a specific process which must be approved by Transportation Cabinet officials, the Covered Bridge Authority, the Kentucky Heritage Council, and public interest groups.

According to Mauney, the interior roof design of the bridge has been changed to match the original design. More of the floor and subfloor material will be also be replaced than was original.

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Bridge to New Ground

How Kentucky Paved a Better Way to Fix Covered Bridges

By Stephanie Smith | *Online Only* | Sept. 8, 2006

After the restoration of Goddard Bridge, Kentucky passed new laws for the rehabilitation of covered bridges. Only 880 remain in the country.

Credit: Steven Donovan

To the strains of "My Old Kentucky Home," last month residents of Fleming County, Ky., took their first close-up look at their Civil War-era covered bridge when it officially reopened after a $1 million rehabilitation. As locals and state officials walked across Goddard Bridge, perhaps the state's most photogenic bridge, they saw little—if anything—new. and they wouldn't have it any other way.

The covered bridge had received a new tin roof, flooring, and stone abutments. But rather than replacing any timbers, workers "sistered" many of the boards in the truss system, adding new wood to support the old. In some places, new wood had been treated to look weathered, protecting the old look of the bridge. "People wanted to see what they remember," says Patrick Kennedy, state restoration project manager.
Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky

Smith Type IV with auxiliary laminated arch
1882 – Jacob Bower

John Hultgren, Louisville, Kentucky - Photographed 2003

2007 – Johnson Creek Covered Bridge - Robertson County, Kentucky
Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
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Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
2007 – Johnson Creek Covered Bridge - Robertson County, Kentucky

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
2007 – Johnson Creek Covered Bridge - Robertson County, Kentucky

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
2007 – Johnson Creek Covered Bridge - Robertson County, Kentucky

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
2012 – Cabin Creek Covered Bridge - Fleming County, Kentucky

Multiple Kingpost with auxiliary laminated arch
1867/1875 – William Henderson

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
2012 – Cabin Creek Covered Bridge - Fleming County, Kentucky

Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky

2012 – Cabin Creek Covered Bridge - Fleming County, Kentucky

Photograph by KHC staff
Adopting Design-Build Procurement Process for Covered Bridge Restoration Efforts in Kentucky
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2012 – Cabin Creek Covered Bridge - Fleming County, Kentucky

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