



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

4219 CAMPBELL AVENUE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501

STEPHEN C. BRICH, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

August 2, 2019

Project: Bridge #6052 Replacement
COUNTY: Nelson
FUNDING: Federal
PERMITS: TBD
VDHR FILE: TBD

Ms. Julie V. Langan, Director
Attn.: Mr. Marc Holma, Resource Services and Review Division
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Subject: Section 106 Initiation

Dear Ms. Langan:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is proposing replacement of the Route 653 Bridge #6052 which spans the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Nelson County (Figure 1). The project will be federally funded and may require water quality permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of this letter is to initiate coordination of the Section 106 process with your agency.

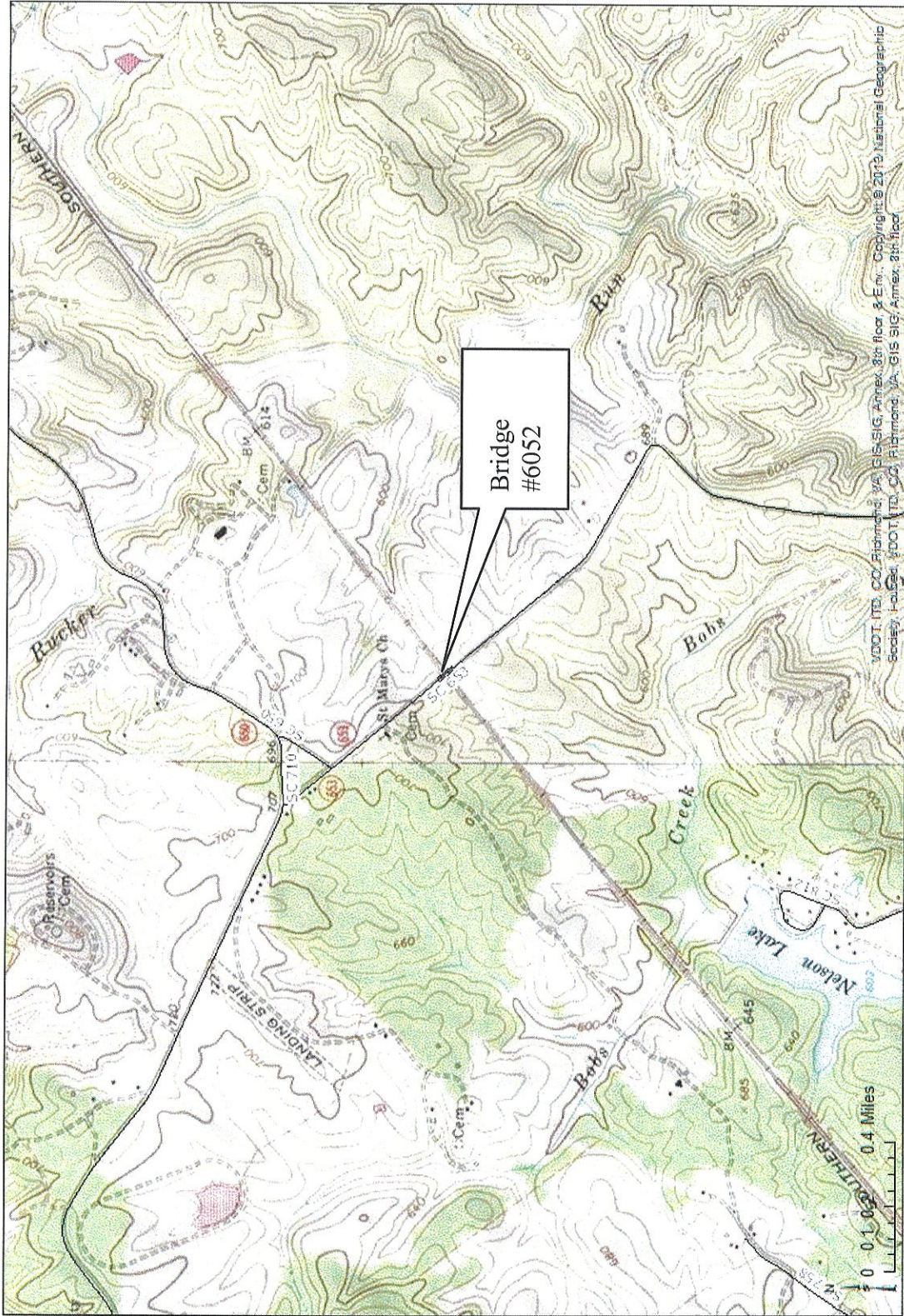


Figure 1. Project location map.

The Undertaking

The undertaking is defined as replacement of Nelson County Bridge #6052 (DHR No. 062-0085), a property listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Nelson County Structure No. 6052 is a single-span Pratt through truss with a steel beam approach span, built in 1882 by the Keystone Bridge Company, carrying Route 653 crossing the Norfolk Southern Railway. This structure was apparently moved to its present site in the early 20th century. The bridge is approximately 138 feet long overall, with the truss span being approximately 100 feet long. This bridge is significant as an example of a late 19th century metal Pratt through truss.

The purpose of this project is to replace the existing single lane structure with a two lane structure. The structure is in an advancing state of deterioration and has a current posting of 8 tons. This project is located in Nelson County, VA adjacent to the Oak Ridge Estate. The functional classification of the route is Rural Local. The current Average Daily Traffic (ADT) for this section of Route 653 is 61 (2017) vehicles per day with 0% truck traffic and the projected Design ADT is 72 (2035).

The existing wrought iron Pratt Truss, built in 1882, is in poor condition and is structurally deficient. The deck, superstructure, and substructure each have a general condition rating of 4. Considering the age, condition, geometry, and type of structure the only practical and cost effective solution is to totally replace the structure. The existing structure has been identified as a priority for replacement. The proposed bridge on Route 653 will remain on the same alignment that currently exists.

Area of Potential Effects

The area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking consists of the Route 653 Bridge #6052 crossing of the Norfolk Southern Railroad in Nelson County and the immediate viewshed of the bridge (Figure 2). The APE is characterized as rural with few dwellings or other buildings in close proximity, none of which can be seen from the bridge. The potential area of direct effects includes the proposed construction footprint which measures 150ft. wide by 650ft. long and is centered on the existing bridge. The northern quadrant of this area lies on an unbuilt portion of the National Register of Historic Places-eligible Oak Ridge property (VDHR ID #062-0011). Efforts to identify any additional historic properties within the defined APE will begin soon.

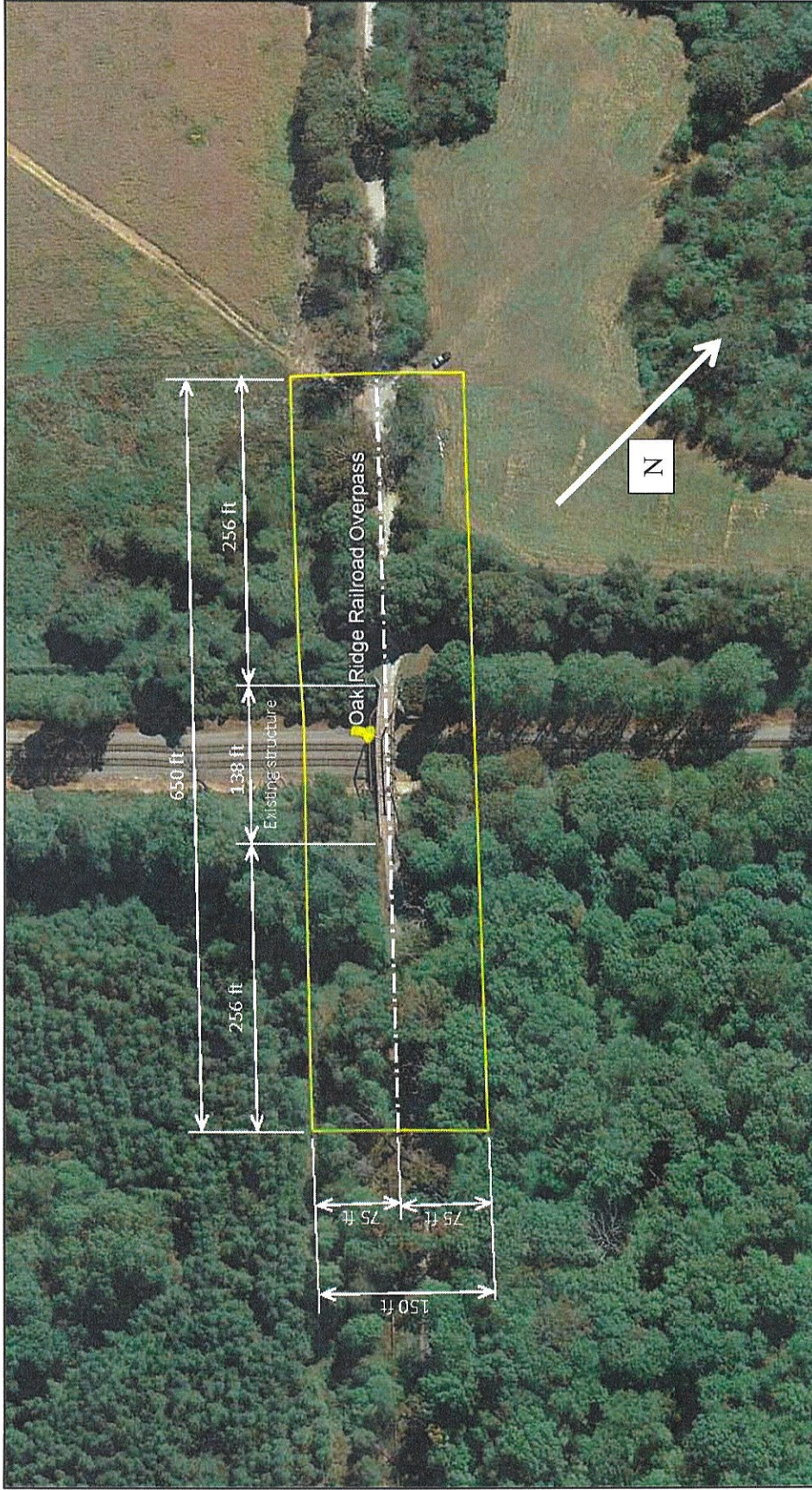


Figure 2. Direct Area of Potential Effects depicted on an aerial photo of the project vicinity.

Consulting Parties

VDOT will invite the local government and the parties listed below to participate in consultation. We are copying this letter to those parties listed in the table below specifically to invite their participation in Section 106 consultation. Please let me know if you have any additional suggested consulting parties.

Organization	Contact Name	Address/Email	Status
Nelson County	Mr. Stephen A. Carter, County Administrator	84 Courthouse Square P.O. Box 336 Lovingson, VA 22949 Email: scarter@nelsoncounty.org	TBD
Nelson County Historical Society	Ms. Deborah Harvey, President	P.O. Box 474 Lovingson, VA 22949 Email: info@nelsonhistorical.org	TBD
Preservation Virginia	Ms. Sonja Ingram, Preservation Field Services Manager	Preservation Virginia Attn: Ms. Sonja Ingram 608 Holbrook Avenue Danville, VA 24541 Email: singram@preservationvirginia.org	TBD
Oak Ridge Estate property owner	Ms. Rhonda Holland	4801 Nansemond Parkway Suffolk, VA 23434 Email: TBD	TBD

Table 1. Potential consulting parties contacted by the VDOT.

Also by way of this letter, the VDOT is requesting that VDHR assign a project review number to the Bridge #6052 Replacement project. Please contact me at (434) 941-8488, or at randy.lichtenberger@vdot.virginia.gov if you have questions about this project.

Sincerely,



Randy Lichtenberger
Regional Archaeologist

cc: Mr. Kevin B. Jones, Federal Highway Administration