



ARKANSAS TRAILS COUNCIL  
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April 18, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Arkansas Trails Council would like to express support for keeping the Clarendon Bridge and using it as a bicycle and pedestrian crossing. We believe the structure and surrounding area would provide an attractive link for a bicycle touring route from Little Rock to Memphis and would also be a great draw for people to access the area's natural, cultural, and historical resources.

Several bicycle infrastructure projects are being developed that significantly help facilitate a bicycle touring route from Little Rock to Memphis. Currently, Memphis is constructing a bicycle/pedestrian crossing over the Mississippi River to Arkansas using the Harahan Bridge. Also in development is a levee trail along the Mississippi River from Marion to Marianna. This would connect with the Harahan Bridge project. Along with these, the City of Memphis is making major improvements to their urban infrastructure to make the city bicycle-friendly.

The Clarendon Bridge will prove invaluable to this bicycle-touring route. It is halfway between Little Rock and Memphis, and the town of Clarendon hosts an array of attractions and services for riders. Most importantly, the bridge at Clarendon is one of the few to span the White River, and will be the only one dedicated solely to non-motorized traffic.

The historic, cultural, and scenic crossing would draw not only bicyclists, but tourists in general. The bridge is on the Register of National Historic Places, and the crossing, Clarendon, and the surrounding area have played an integral role in the settlement and history of the Arkansas Delta.

The bridge was opened in 1931 and has much of the charm of structures built in that era. Along with its striking architecture, a majority of the two-mile-plus crossing is routed through the treetops of the White River bottomland forest and over two sections of an oxbow lake in the southern part of the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, providing spectacular views from a unique perspective. We feel these elements would bring people from across the state and nation to this place to walk and bicycle, and to just experience the bridge and its surroundings, ultimately providing a great economic benefit to the area.

Because of this great opportunity, the Arkansas Trails Council supports efforts to keeping this valuable asset for the people and future generations of Clarendon, the region, the state, and the nation.

Sincerely, *Debbie Doss*

Debbie Doss, Chairperson  
Arkansas Trails Council