

# Appendix E4:

## Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Public Summary



# Long Bridge Project

## Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Draft Technical Report

October 17, 2018

# **LONG BRIDGE PROJECT: PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DRAFT TECHNICAL REPORT**

**DC SHPO Project No. 18-0310  
VDHR Project No. 2016-0932**

**Prepared For:**

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## Management Summary

The Federal Railroad Administration and the District Department of Transportation have conducted a Phase IA archaeological site assessment of the Long Bridge Project (the Project) in the District of Columbia (the District) and Virginia. The proposed Project consists of potential improvements to Long Bridge and related railroad infrastructure in the 1.8-mile Project Area located between RO Interlocking in Arlington, Virginia, and L'Enfant Interlocking near L'Enfant Plaza SW in the District.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the Project is to provide additional long-term railroad capacity and to improve the reliability of railroad service through the Long Bridge Corridor. Currently, there is insufficient capacity, resiliency, and redundancy to accommodate the projected demand in future railroad services.

The Phase IA archaeological site assessment was conducted pursuant to:

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulation (36 CFR Part 800);
- Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*;
- District of Columbia Preservation League's *Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in the District of Columbia* as adopted by the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO); and
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) *Guidelines for Conducting Historic Resources Survey in Virginia*.

The Phase IA includes:

- Preparation of an historic context including review of historical maps to determine potential for Historic period archaeological resources;
- Preparation of a prehistoric Native American context including review of prehistoric Native American site location models for the Potomac River area;
- Review of the DC SHPO and VDHR site file databases to determine the level of previous archaeological investigations and the location of archaeological sites within and near the Project;
- An elevation and bathymetric change analysis to better identify and understand modifications to the Project landforms; and
- Site visit to identify any pertinent characteristics of the Project Limits of Disturbance (LOD) not readily apparent in the desktop reviews.

Review of historical documents identified two terrestrial areas with potential for pre-twentieth-century archaeological remains: from 12th Street SW west to the Potomac River shoreline and at the historical location of Jackson City (known archaeological site 44AR0037), a mid-nineteenth-century village near the intersection of Long Bridge and the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). Prehistoric Native American site location models predict a high potential for sites within the initial 300 to 500 feet of the Potomac River shoreline. Finally, elevation and bathymetric change analysis suggests that the LOD

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<sup>1</sup> Note that "RO" is the proper name of this interlocking. It is not an acronym.

east of 12th Street SW and the west half of the Potomac River have been disturbed and retain no potential for archaeological resources.

Based on the assessment results, three terrestrial areas of high potential for archaeological resources have been identified within the LOD:

- The eastern half of the area from the GWMP south to RO Interlocking, which has a high potential for prehistoric Native American archaeological features and artifact deposits;
- Areas east and west of the existing railroad corridor at GWMP, which are the location of Jackson City (archaeological site 44AR0037); and
- The area west of 12th Street SW, which has a high potential for prehistoric Native American and Historic period artifact and feature deposits.

There is one submerged area of moderate potential: the area from the middle of the Potomac River to the western shoreline of East Potomac Park has a moderate potential for piers associated with earlier bridges. This area would also have been a terrestrial landform during the late Pleistocene/early Holocene epochs. While recent investigations at West Potomac Park concluded that river migration had destroyed this landform, a PaleoIndian projectile point has been reported to DC SHPO from this approximate area. As such, the area from the middle of the Potomac River to the western shoreline of East Potomac Park has a moderate potential for prehistoric Native American artifact and feature deposits. All other terrestrial or submerged areas have low or no potential for archaeological resources.

## Public Summary

The Federal Railroad Administration and the District Department of Transportation have conducted a Phase IA archaeological site assessment (“archaeological assessment”) of the Long Bridge Project (the Project) in the District of Columbia (the District) and Virginia. This technical report details the findings of the archaeological site assessment for the Project, which consists of potential improvements to Long Bridge and related railroad infrastructure located in a 1.8-mile Project Area between RO Interlocking in Arlington, Virginia, and L’Enfant (LE) Interlocking near L’Enfant Plaza SW in the District.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of the Project is to provide additional long-term railroad capacity and to improve the reliability of railroad service through the Long Bridge Corridor. Currently, there is insufficient capacity, resiliency, and redundancy to accommodate the projected demand in future railroad services.

The archaeological assessment was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulation (36 CFR Part 800), the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*, the District of Columbia Preservation League’s *Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in the District of Columbia*, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources *Guidelines for Conducting Historic Resources Survey in Virginia*. The archaeological assessment included:

- Preparation of an historic context based on review of historical maps to see if Historic period archaeological resources were noted.
- Preparation of a prehistoric Native American context based on review of prehistoric Native American site location models for the Potomac River area.
- Review of the District and Virginia site file databases to identify previous archaeological investigations and the location of archaeological sites within and near the Project.
- Preparation of an elevation change analysis and a bathymetric change analysis to better identify and understand modifications to landforms and river bottom.
- A site visit to identify any pertinent characteristics of the Project area not readily apparent in the desktop reviews.

Review of historical documents identified two areas with potential for pre-twentieth-century archaeological remains: from 12th Street SW west to the historic Potomac River shoreline at the Washington Channel and at the historical location of Jackson City (known archaeological site 44AR0037), a mid-nineteenth-century village near the intersection of Long Bridge and the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). Prehistoric Native American site location models predict a high potential for sites within the initial 300 to 500 feet of the Potomac River shoreline. Finally, elevation and bathymetric change analysis suggests that the Project area east of 12th Street SW and the west half of the Potomac River have been disturbed and thus have no potential for archaeological resources.

Based on the assessment results three terrestrial areas with high potential for archaeological resources have been identified:

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<sup>2</sup> Note that “RO” is the proper name of this interlocking. It is not an acronym.

- The eastern half of the area from near the GWMP south to near RO Interlocking has a high potential for the Native American archaeological features and artifact deposits **Figure 1, 1**).
- Areas both east and west of the existing railroad corridor immediately south of the GWMP are the location of Jackson City (archaeological site 44AR0037) (**Figure 1, 2**).
- The area west of 12th Street SW could retain prehistoric Native American and Historic period artifact deposits and features (**Figure 1, 3**).

All other terrestrial areas have a low to no potential for terrestrial archaeological resources (**Figure 1, a, b, c, d, and e**).

There is one submerged moderate potential area within the Project area (**Figure 1, I**). The area from the approximate middle of the modern Potomac River to the western shoreline of East Potomac Park has a moderate potential for piers associated with earlier bridges. This area would also have been a terrestrial landform during the late Pleistocene/early Holocene epochs due to decreased sea levels associated with glaciation and would have provided a suitable place of occupation for the first Native Americans in the New World. All other submerged areas have no to low potential for archaeological resources (**Figure 1, II and III**).

**Figure 1 | Results of Archaeological Assessment**

