

# Foundry Branch Trestle Bridge Demolition



## National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consulting Party Meeting #1

Rock Creek Park  
Virtual Meeting  
March 30, 2021

# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Overview of the Section 106 process
- Description of the trestle
- History of the trestle
  - Construction and operation
  - WMATA acquisition and maintenance
  - Decision to remove the trestle
- Alternatives considered
- Planned action, process, schedule
- Proposed mitigations
- Questions/discussion

# Section 106 Process

## Consulting Party Meeting #1

- Project overview
- Avoidance and minimization
- Identification of historic properties

- Define undertaking
- Initiate consultation with SHPO

- Identify and invite consulting parties

- Define Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Identify and evaluate historic properties

- Determine effects to historic properties

- Draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve adverse effects, if necessary

- Execute MOA, if necessary



# Foundry Branch Trestle



- Listed as a contributing resource in the Glover-Archbold Park NRHP nomination. The structure retains integrity and is associated with the history of development in northwest Washington.
- The trestle is a 260 ft long x 20 ft wide steel, concrete, and wood structure.
- Structurally, the trestle is a Pratt truss, suspended by 22 steel towers (12 on the east side and 10 on the west side.) The trestle is supported by 22 concrete footers and 2 concrete abutments.

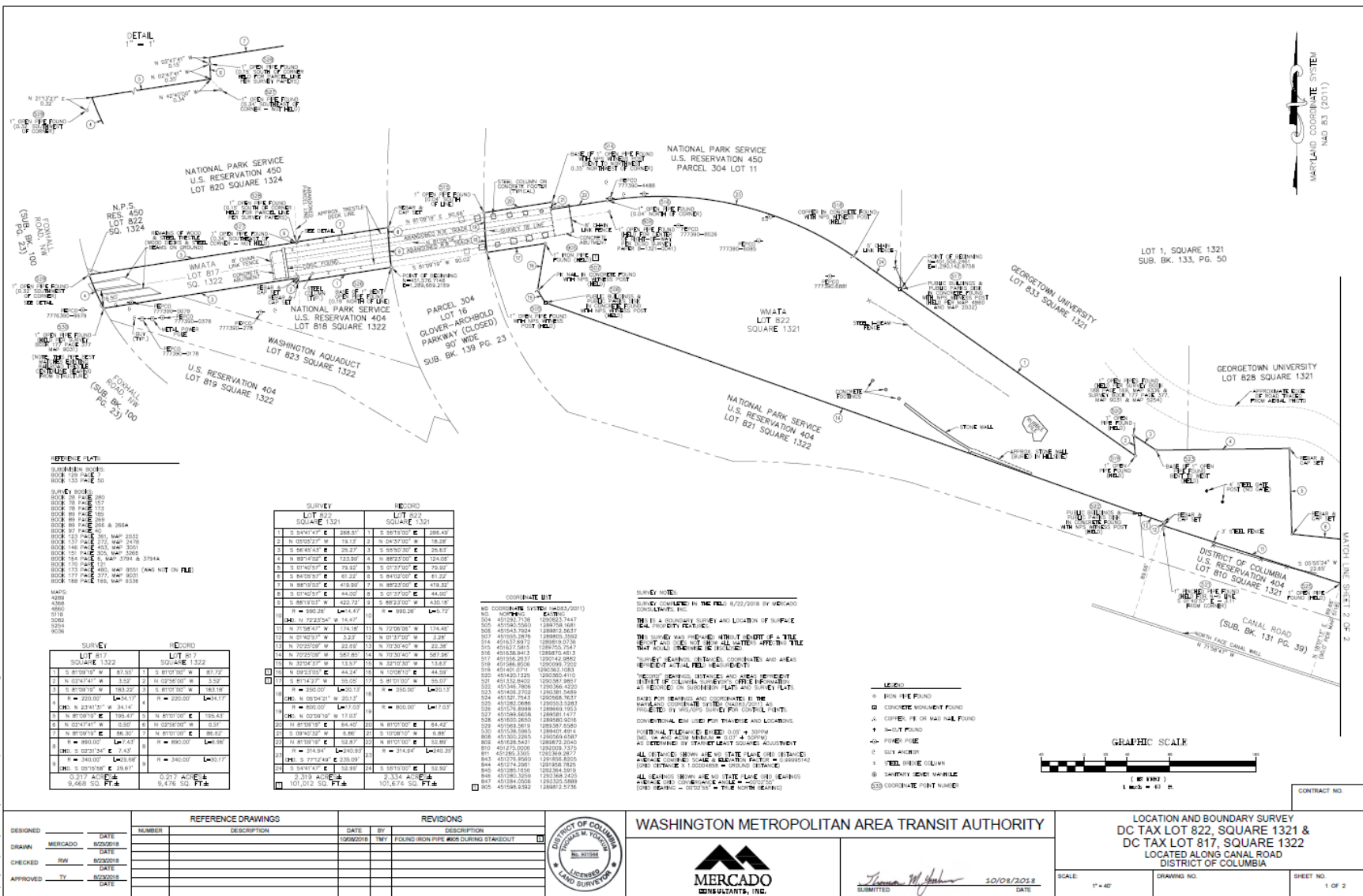


# Foundry Branch Trestle



- Numerous studies indicate the structure is in poor condition. At least 3 of 22 steel towers are compromised, and probably more.
- WMATA owns most of the land associated with the structure, although the trestle spans NPS land, and four of the pedestals are located on NPS land.

# Site Plan



# History of the Trestle

- 1890s — Trestle constructed
- 1962 — Streetcar operations suspended
- 1997 — Court gives ownership of bridge to WMATA
- 2007 — Trestle included as a contributing resource in the Glover-Archbold Park NRHP designation
- 2014 — Structural Report issued; trestle in poor condition
- 2018 — WMATA files Raze Permit application
- 2018 — HPRB refers Raze Permit application to Mayor's Agent
- 2019 — Mayor's Agent Hearing
- 2019 — DDOT agrees to study hiker-biker trail
- 2019 — DDOT determined cost of trail would be \$2.7-\$4.1 million
- 2020 — Mayor's Agent clears Raze Permit application
- 2021 — Section 106 process initiated



# Alternatives Considered

- Ownership Transfer
  - National Park Service
  - DC Water
  - DDOT
  - DC Parks and Recreation
  - Georgetown University
- Bridge Rehabilitation
- Bridge Demolition



# FOUNDRY TRESTLE BRIDGE CONDITION

## BRIDGE INSPECTION PROCESS

- Site Inspection
- 3D Scans
- Document geometry and condition of the bridge
- Develop structural analysis model
- Check if the structure can support a pedestrian trail
- Develop conceptual ideas for rehabilitating the bridge
- Planning level cost estimate for the rehabilitation

## FINDINGS SUMMARY

### Main Truss

- Can support the loads resulting from a 12-ft wide pedestrian trail
- Improvements needed:  
Dismantle truss, clean, paint and repair steelwork. Reassemble with replacing riveted connections with bolts

### Approach Towers

- In poor condition
- Improvements needed:
- Multiple members need to be replaced due to their deteriorated condition
- Many members need to be strengthened to carry applied loads

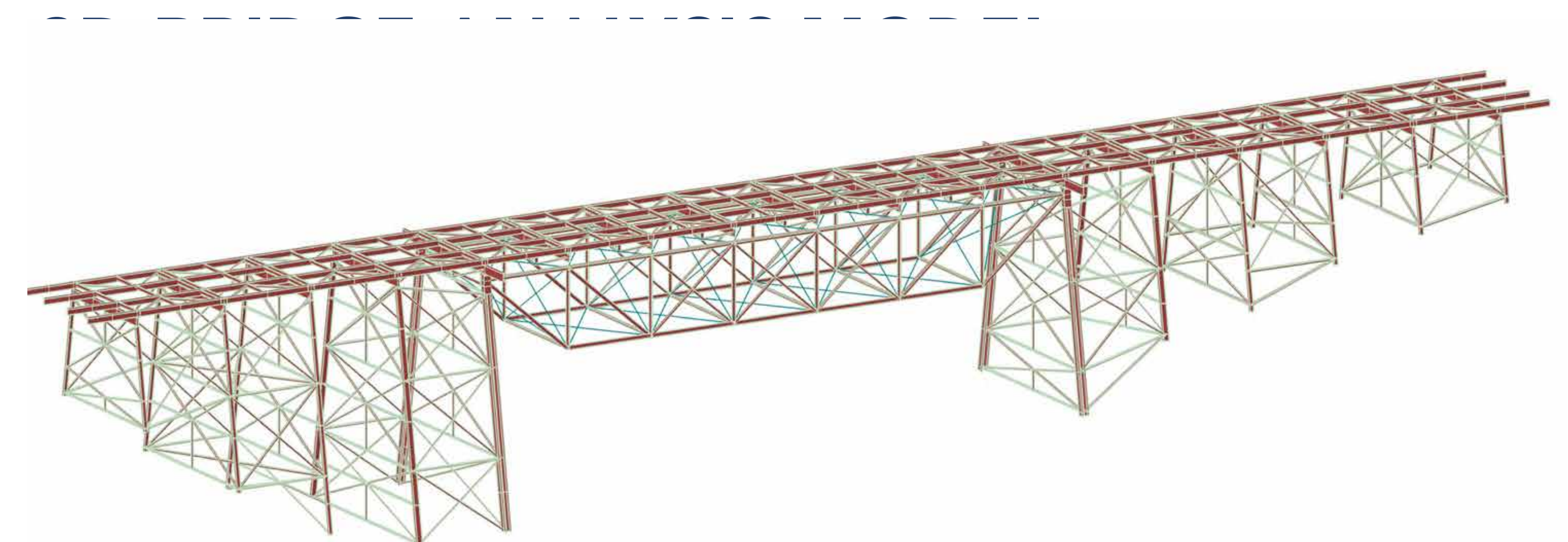
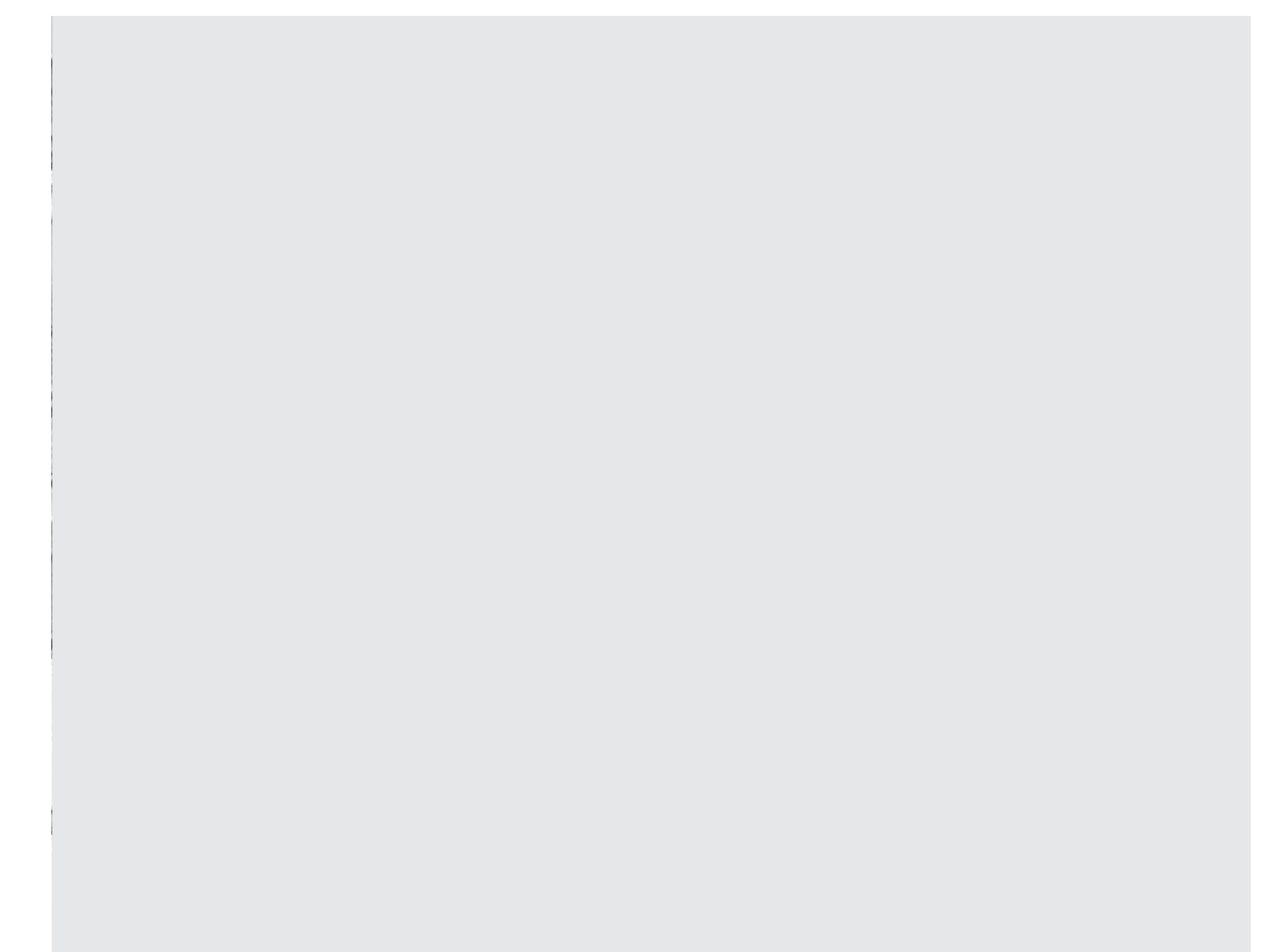
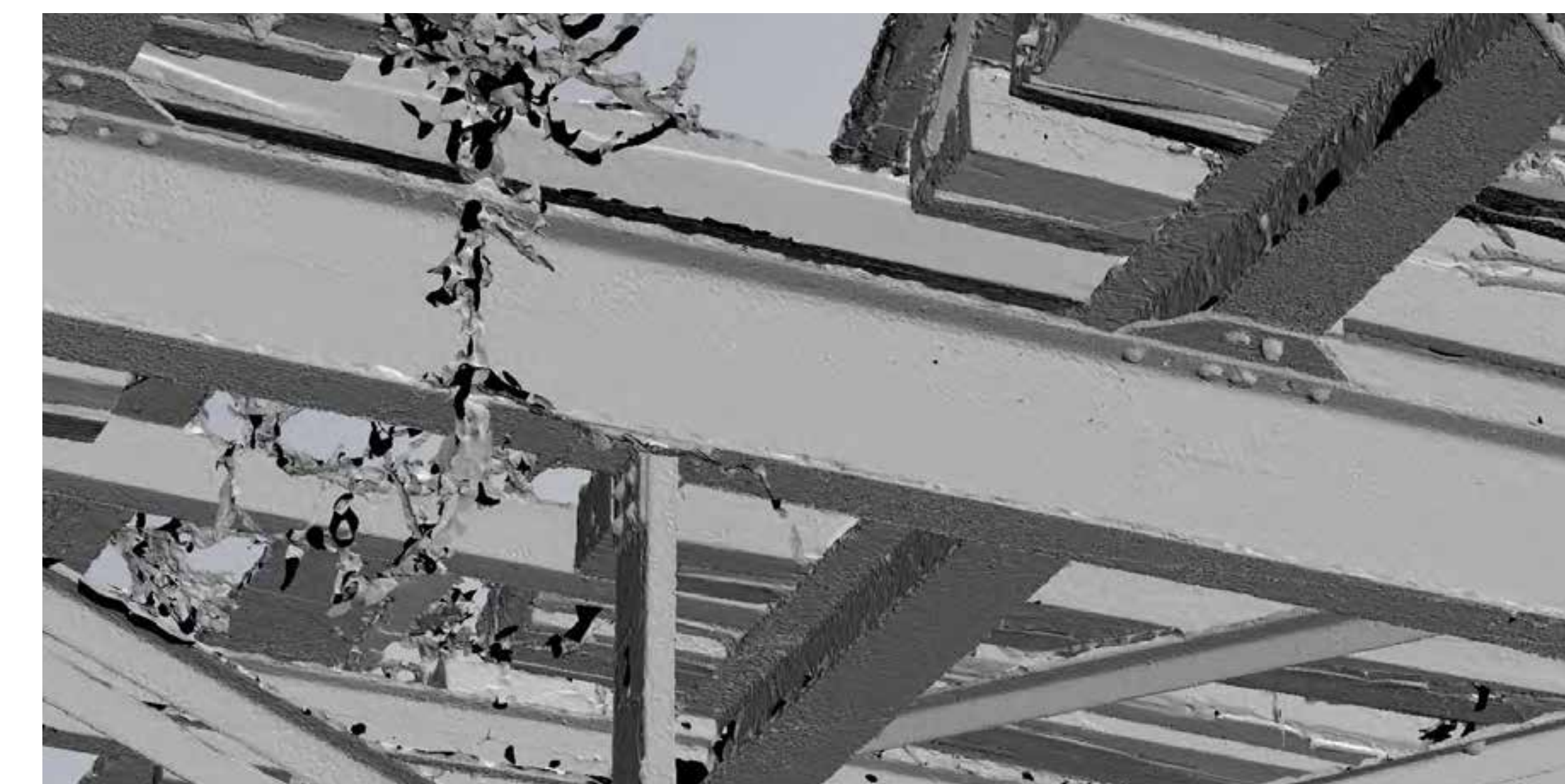
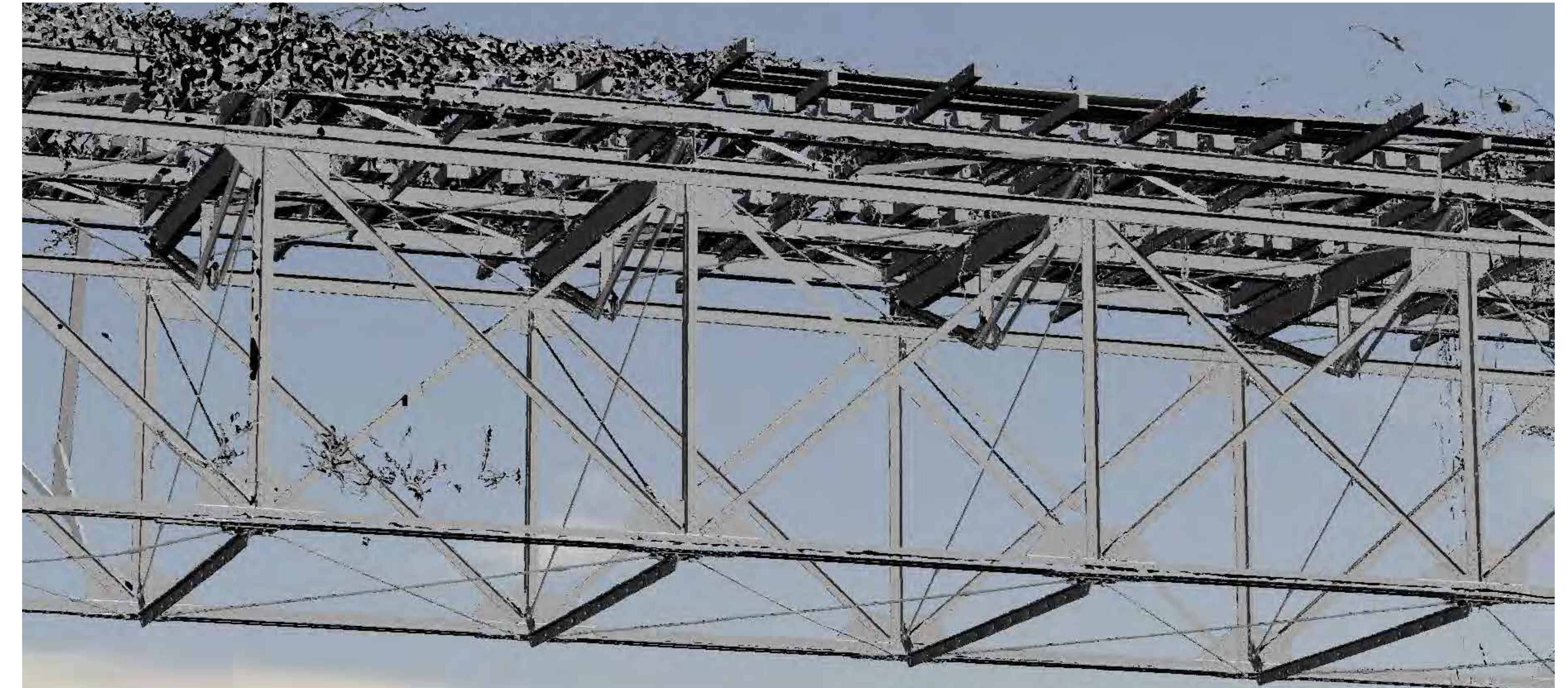
### Visible Deck Members

- Show significant deterioration
- Likely additional unseen deterioration where moisture is trapped beneath rail ties



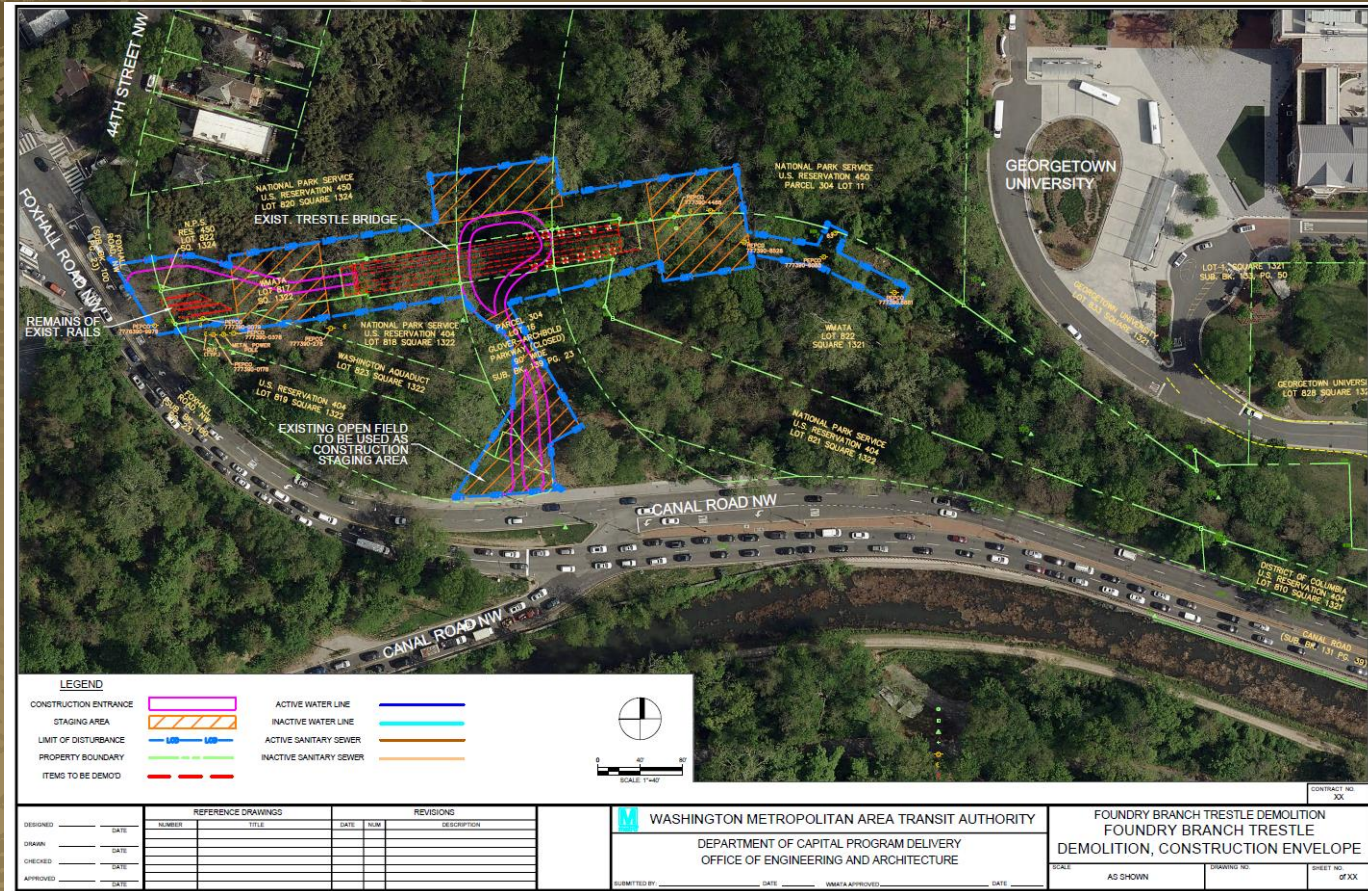
*Images from inspection findings*

## BRIDGE LASER SCAN IMAGES





# Planned Action, Process, Schedule



- Remove the timbers, steel, and concrete to 2 ft below grade.
- Remove electrical wires and poles along WMATA ROW.
- Dispose of material off-site.
- Regrade and re-seed area.

# Proposed Mitigations

- Mitigation is required when an undertaking will result in an adverse effect to a historic property.
- Mitigation involves compensation for the loss or diminishment of a historic property.



# QUESTIONS/ DISCUSSION

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