

BROWDALE BRIDGE
W. 50th Street & Browndale Avenue

PLAN OF TREATMENT

The Edina Heritage Preservation Board uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties as the authoritative guide for its design review decisions. Within the framework of these standards, and in consultation with the property owner, the Board has adopted the following general and specific guidelines specially tailored to the preservation requirements of the Browndale Bridge:

- 1) The Browndale Bridge will be preserved in place with stabilization of the historic masonry and ongoing maintenance to sustain its existing form. The preferred preservation treatment is rehabilitation, defined as the process of maintaining the bridge in a state of utility through repairs and minor alterations which make possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those features which are significant to its historical and engineering values. Repair and replacement of deteriorated features should be based on accurate duplications of the original, based on historical, pictorial, or physical evidence.
- 2) The distinguishing historical qualities and character of the bridge (i.e., its height, shape, and form) should not be significantly altered or destroyed.
- 3) Rehabilitate the surfaces of the bridge and wing walls by coating them with concrete, duplicating the original finish as closely as possible while preserving the existing shape of the structure.
- 4) Replace the existing railings with historically appropriate ornamental metal railings based on historical and pictorial evidence.
- 5) Signs, lighting, fencing, and walkways should be compatible with the character of the bridge and provide a minimum intrusion on its size, scale, material, and color.
- 6) Recognize the special problems inherent in the bridge's alignment and structural systems when complying with traffic safety and structural engineering requirements so that the essential character of the bridge is preserved intact.
- 7) Investigate alternative safety measures that preserve the historical integrity of the bridge. The City should make every effort to retain the historic bridge as a functional part of the modern transportation system while preserving its distinguishing original qualities and character. If it can no longer be used for vehicle traffic, the bridge should be adapted for use as a pedestrian and bicycle crossing.
- 8) In the event that the bridge can no longer be preserved in place for reasons of public safety, the preferred treatment to mitigate the effects of demolition is

removal to another, similar location where it could be preserved and rehabilitated. If relocation is not viable, the effects of demolition should be mitigated by documenting the bridge with measured drawings, large-format negative photographs, and written information to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER).