

National Trails Highway – Adena Ditch Bridge Replacement Project

Project Description

The Project involves the replacement of a 1930s era timber bridge, known as the Adena Ditch Bridge, with a new, engineered timber bridge. These bridges are located on County-maintained National Trails Highway (NTH), otherwise known as California U.S. Highway 66/National Trails Highway and traditionally known as Route 66. The Adena Ditch Bridge is located in eastern San Bernardino County, approximately 4.3 miles east of Danby Road, near the unincorporated community of Essex. The Project consists of removing the existing bridge and constructing a new timber bridge, rock slope protection, guardrails, and roadway reconstruction 200 feet east and west of the bridge.

Project Need

This bridge has been in service much longer than their original designed lifespan and has a sufficiency rating justifying replacement. The impending failure of this bridge is of critical concern to the entire eastern and central portion of the High Desert. The regional area served by the NTH alignment contains a veritable host of vitally important transportation corridors including federal interstates, state highways, county roads, local roads, jeep trails, footpaths, railroads and utilities serve the American public from the local to the national levels for anything ranging from a trip to Las Vegas in the family car, to supplying various regions of our nation with natural gas and power, to serving as one of the main rail alignments in and out of southern California, to serving as an emergency by-pass for Interstate 40, to serving as a key transportation link to and from the US Marine Corps Base at Twentynine Palms, and for serving as routes to National Parks and BLM recreational areas. Use and maintenance of each of these vital corridors is greatly facilitated by keeping the NTH open for traffic. In 2003, the County began to develop a program to reconstruct and/or replace structurally deficient timber bridges in the National Trails Highway corridor between Daggett and Mountain Springs Road over the next 20 years.

