

When MDOT proposes rehabilitation projects for historic bridges with rivetted connections I encourage the retention of rivets or that the engineers consider the use of new rivets where rivets must be placed. It is not only a best practice for the purpose of historic preservation, as it honors the intent of the original engineering design and craftsmen that fabricated and erected the structure, it is encouraged by the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. MDOT consults with the State Historic Preservation Office on such projects to seek agreement on a plan of action that poses no adverse effect. SHPO strongly advocates for the same best practices, but are also cognizant of situations where, for this discussion, replacing rivets with high strength bolts may be the appropriate approach. The MDOT – SHPO collaboration is achieving successful projects that balance the historic preservation standards with current safety and performance standards.

Lloyd Baldwin, MDOT Cultural and Historic Resource Coordinator