

# W. Cross - Memorial Bridge

April 20, 1931.

Mr. Joseph B. Strauss, Chief Eng.,  
Strauss Engineering Corp.,  
405 Montgomery St.,  
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of April 11th about the proposed Washington Crossing Memorial Bridge, this matter is in its formative stage only. The Board of Conservation and Development which handles the State Park on the New Jersey side and the Pennsylvania Washington Crossing Park Commission had a joint meeting a month or two ago, organized to present the matter to Congress when it meets again. It is the feeling of both Boards and I believe the general feeling in the State that the bridge itself should be a Federal project. Each State has already put a large sum of money into the park on its own side of the river and if the bridge is built we will be called on to make further large expenditures for approaches, etc. Because of these facts and also because it is felt that Washington's crossing of the Delaware was an event significant enough historically to the nation to call for national recognition in the way of a memorial, the plan is to urge upon Congress appropriation sufficient to build a suitable bridge from Federal funds.

Of course until such action has been taken by Congress and the funds are available there is nothing to be done in the way of negotiations about the actual building of the bridge. I presume also that the type of structure will be more or less influenced by the opinions of the Army Engineers who undoubtedly will have the matter in charge for the Federal Government. However, it is our emphatic feeling that something in the way of suggested design would be a real help for propoganda purposes even if the design was not adhered to in the final project. Just at the present time the Department has no funds available with which to take up the matter in this way. I shall be glad to keep you in mind, however, as soon as anything materializes in such a way that we can consider any definite action of this sort.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

C.P. Wilber,  
State Forester.

CPW/MW.