

December 8, 1936.

Hon. A. Harry Moore
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Moore:

There is in several quarters an interest in a Federal Memorial Bridge across the Delaware River at Washington Crossing as the Federal contribution to the marking of the spot where Washington's Army crossed the river before the battle of Trenton, in connection with the State Parks developed on either side of the river by New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The principal difficulty to getting something started has always seemed to be the location of a site for the bridge because there have been rather positive opinions pro and con on this. +

It would be fitting for the Federal Government to provide a significant Federal Memorial in connection with this site as the keystone of the memorial. We took up with the State Highway Commission of New Jersey their attitude towards the necessary approach a year or two ago and at that time they expressed themselves as believing from the traffic standpoint that this provision for crossing the river here would be of real advantage and that they would be distinctly interested in the possibility of having a bridge and would be glad to consider favorably provision for the New Jersey approach. Traffic is increasing very rapidly on this Washington Crossing Bridge every year and the location is not inconceivable as one of the possibilities of by-passing a great deal of the through traffic around Trenton. A bridge which would take care of a large volume of traffic at this point, therefore, apparently would have value as a utility in addition to its sentimental appeal.

After a careful study of the location we have been able to locate what from all standpoints is apparently a feasible and most desirable crossing location for the river at this point. I think there should be little difficulty in securing agreement of both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania authorities to the replacement of the present bridge with the structure at a new location. I am enclosing a leaflet which indicates in a general way what has been proposed in this connection.

I am taking this matter up with you because I should like to get your attitude towards such a proposition very frankly expressed before saying anything about it locally. If the proposition appeals to you as one that is justified and in which you would be interested would it be possible to consider the project in connection with either regular or relief expenditures at the coming session. Its cost could run into almost any figure of course, but in my opinion need not represent an extravagant figure.

Senator Moore

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I shall be glad to go into details further with you or anyone if you feel that the proposition is one that can be presented at Washington with any degree of success at the present time.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT.

C. P. Wilber, Chief
Division of Forests & Parks.

CPW/MW