



Historic Bridge Adoption Information Packet

Hamilton County

County Road (CR) 203

Leon River

October 2024

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Announcement

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) seeks adopters for the historic bridge detailed below for reuse according to federal transportation and historic preservation laws. The bridge is located in Hamilton County, on County Road (CR) 203 crossing the Leon River.

Letters of interest and/or reuse proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. on **December 1, 2024**. TxDOT is currently undergoing alternatives analysis for this project. The outcome of the analysis may impact the availability of this bridge. Priority for assistance will be given to public entities seeking to reuse the bridge in a public or publicly visible space. Bridges available through this program are not suitable for vehicular service. All rehabilitation work must conform to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation* in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

Interested parties may request additional information, indicate an interest, or submit a reuse proposal by contacting:

Darrell Dooley, Environmental Project Planner
TxDOT Waco District
100 South Loop Drive
Waco, TX 76704
Phone Number: (254) 867-2700
Email address: darrell.dooley@txdot.gov



Bridge Location

- **County:** Hamilton
- **Highway or Facility:** County Road (CR) 203
- **Feature Crossed:** Leon River
- **GIS Locational Information** <https://arcg.is/SnH8z0>

Bridge Information

- **Bridge Owner** Hamilton County
- **Main-span Type:** Steel I-beam
- **Main-span Length** 52 feet
- **Roadway Width** 22 feet
- **Year Built** 1932
- **Builder** Texas Highway Department

Bridge Condition

The CR 203 at Leon River bridge is currently closed due to its condition and structural limitations. Severe section loss of the timber pilings in the substructure resulted in a poor condition rating. The span configuration has allowed debris to build-up underneath the structure, and the channel is now wider than it was originally due to scour and major erosion along the riverbank. The scour, along with the substructure condition, impacts the stability of the bridge. Additionally, the bridge is structurally deficient. At 22-feet-wide, the bridge is narrow, and it cannot safely accommodate two-way traffic.

Historic Significance of the Bridge

Constructed in 1932, the CR 203 at Leon River Bridge is historically significant a good representative example of a steel I-beam bridge designed by the State Highway Department in the 1930s. The bridge is longest and best-preserved example of a steel I-beam on timber pile bents bridge in the state. It originally carried State Highway 66 between Hamilton and Hico. To cross the wide drainage of the Leon River, the Bridge Division utilized three 52' long I-beam and concrete slab units set on reinforced concrete piers over the main channel of the river. The bridge carried traffic of SH 66 and US 281 until 1958, when a new prestressed concrete bridge bypassed the original structure.

Bridge Photographs



