

The Bridge Project

Interpreting the historic Bismarck-Mandan rail bridge as a site of conscience.

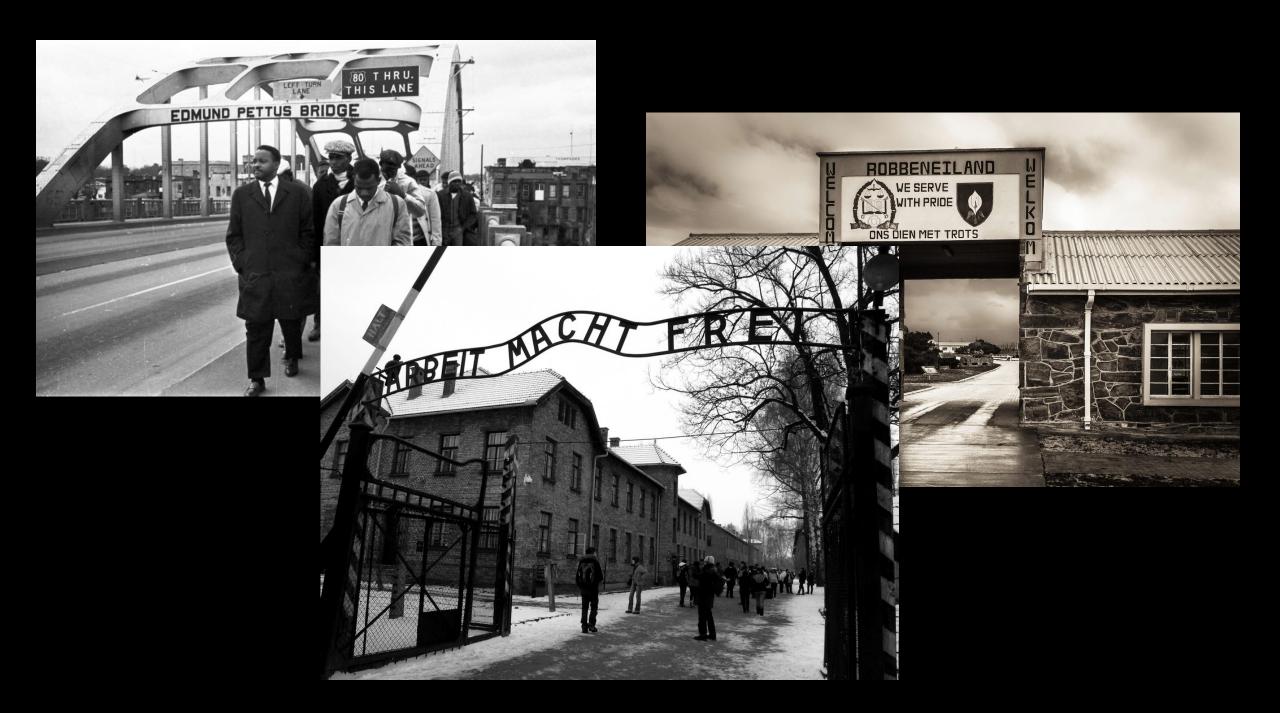


"The United States shall extinguish, as rapidly as may be consistent with public policy and the welfare of the said Indians, the Indian titles to all lands falling under the operation of this act, and acquired in the donation to the [road] named in this bill."

-- Congressional Charter, Northern Pacific Railroad 1864

"The need to remember often competes with the equally strong pressure to forget. Even with the best of intentions – such as to promote reconciliation after deeply divided events by "turning the page" erasing the past can prevent new generations from learning critical lessons and destroy opportunities to build a peaceful future."

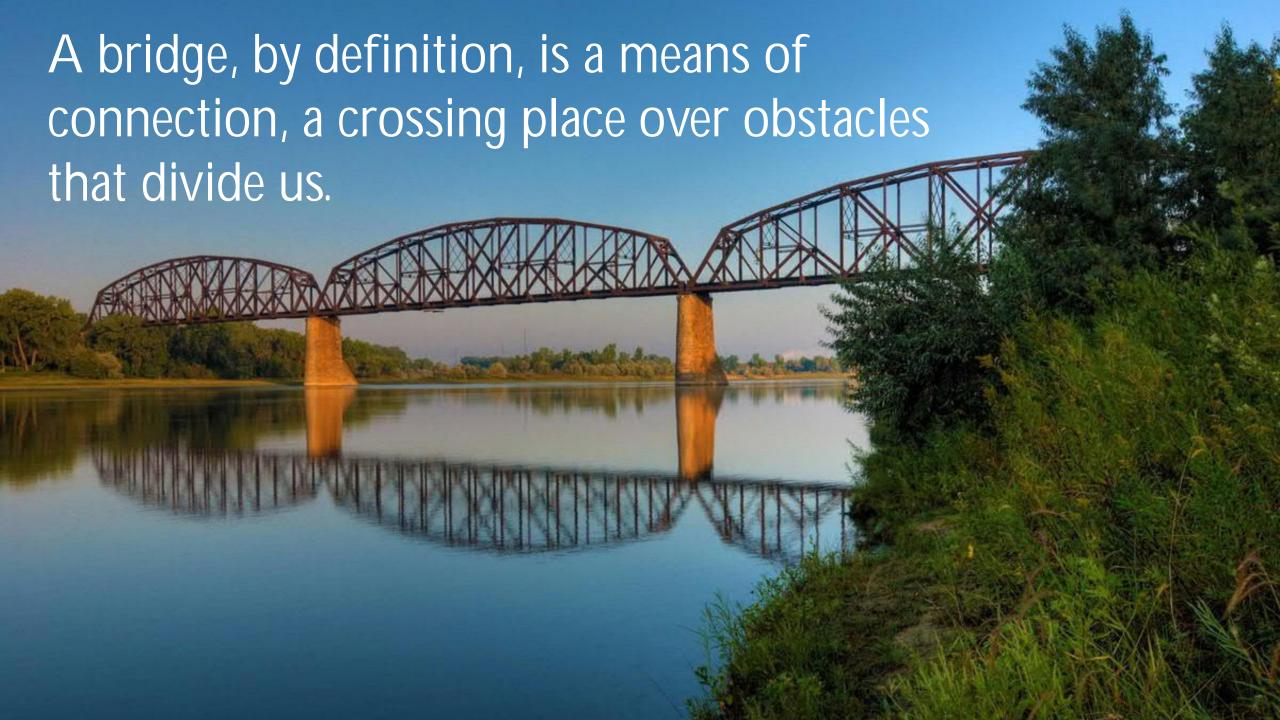
-- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience



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"Historic places have powerful and provocative stories to tell. As witnesses to the past, they recall real events that shaped history and actual people who faced those situations and issues. Places make connections across time that give them a special ability to create an empathetic understanding of what happened and why."

-- National Park Service, Teaching with Historic Places



What? A pocket park with interpretive kiosk and appropriate site amenities.

Who? Bismarck Parks & Recreation in collaboration with NPNHA, SHSND and THPOs.

Where? East side riverfront trail near the historic bridge site.

When? Installation would begin after new bridge construction staging area is vacated.

Interpretive content? Developed by contract historian under direction of collaborative partners.

Estimated cost? \$80,000 to \$100,000.

Responsible for cost? Funding would be the responsibility of BNSF Railway as mitigation for adverse effect to the historic resource.