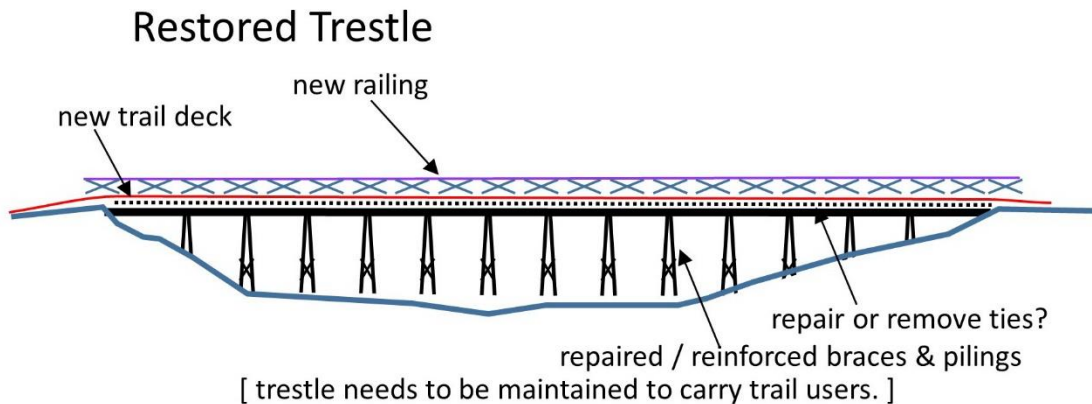
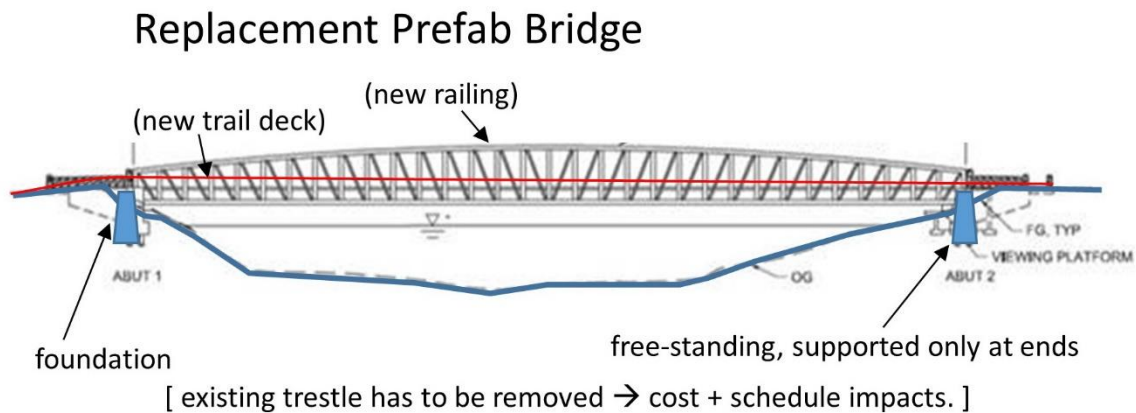


I have been advocating that the Willow Glen Trestle be restored and adapted for trail use: repair or replace worn beams and bolts, and install a new “trail deck” (e.g., concrete slabs) and new railing. The structure would need routine maintenance and repairs to keep it safe for public use.

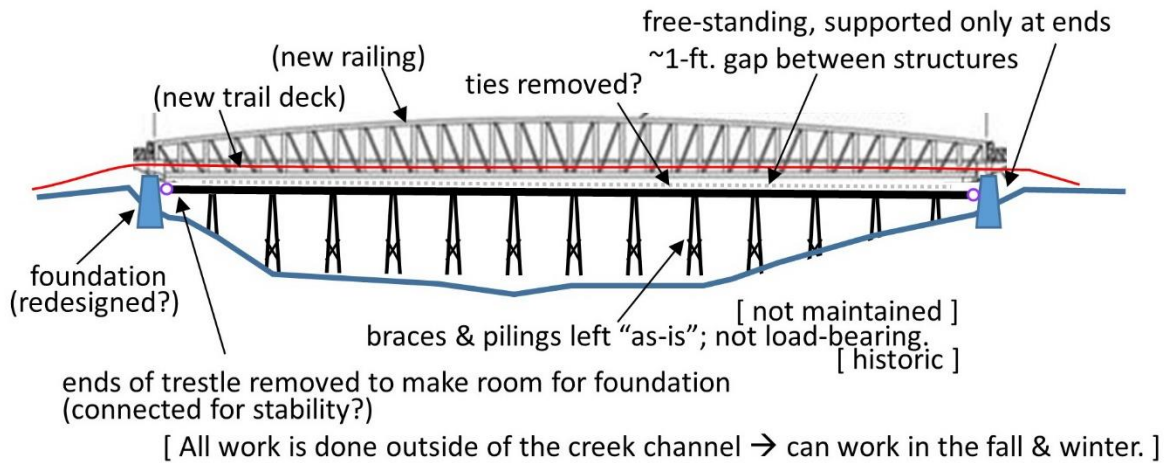


The City has been wanting to install the prefab bridge that they bought some years ago, which involves demolishing and removing the trestle, constructing a new foundation at the top-of-bank on each side, and then lifting the new bridge into place by crane.



After going on a tour of the trestle with me last week, Jon Cicirelli, the new acting Director of the Parks Dept., suggested a compromise: use the new prefab bridge for the trail, but don't remove the trestle. Construct the (slightly taller?) foundations at top-of-bank and lift the new bridge into place as before, but leave the existing trestle beneath it. The trestle would actually be in a more historic state because, since it wouldn't be used by the public, worn timbers and bolts would not have to be replaced. The city would save the cost of trestle demolition, and, since it's not actually used, there would be few if any maintenance costs. Furthermore, since there would be no in-stream repairs or demolition, work could continue past the Oct. 15th (“rainy season”) deadline, allowing the city to use the grant funding that expires at the end of the year.

Hybrid compromise?



The trail user would see little difference between crossing on an adapted trestle and on a prefab bridge. And, as now, the trestle would be best viewed from the side, and a steel bridge a foot or two above it would appear basically the same as a restored trail deck with railing.

I have run this idea past the SJ Historic Landmarks Commission and the State Office of Historic Preservation, and they are all amenable to the idea: the trestle would even maintain its place on the California Register of Historic Resources.

The challenge now is to get the city to stop the demolition of the trestle next week so that we can pursue this compromise!

[Larry Ames, Willow Glen Trestle Conservancy. posted on Facebook, 10/8/18]