



Chairman Rep. Steve Heubert
149B-S Kansas State Capitol
300 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

February 10, 2015

Written testimony before the House Local Government Committee
HB 2238, Cowley County: The Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas

Representative Heubert and Local Government Committee Members:

My name is Kerri Falletti. I am Director of Economic and Community Development for Cowley County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of our request to be officially designated as the Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas.

Cowley First, on behalf of the Cowley County Commission and Cowley County Tourism Alliance, is requesting that Cowley County be designated as the "Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas". The Cowley County Commission has shown support for this designation through Resolution No. 2015-03. (Attached)

With 18 stone arch bridges touted as tourism and historical locations in the county and attracting visitors seeking them on self-guided tours, Cowley County has often been referred to as the "Stone Arch Capital of Kansas". This includes the Kansas Sampler Organization which names Cowley County as Stone Bridge Capital. Marci Penner has traveled Kansas and supports our claim.

The stone arch bridges are one of our prominent connections with history, architecture and tourism. These bridges, constructed between 1890 and 1910, include one, two and three arch bridges. Two of the bridges are listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

All 18 stone arch bridges are on public roadways or public property. When comparing data, Kansas Department of Transportation, Bureau of Local Projects-Bridge Team confirmed that Cowley County has 16 stone bridges inspected by KDOT. Of the two unaccounted bridges, one is on a vacated road but accessible on public property and the other is on a public road but is 14' x 9'; under the threshold of 20' to require inspection and reporting to KDOT.

According to KDOT, Ness and Rush counties have seven stone arch bridges on public roads that are large enough to require inspection. With the exception of Cowley, no other county has more than seven, which we feel is confirmation that Cowley County has the most and largest stone arch bridges in Kansas.

Our county coalition, Cowley County Tourism Alliance (CCTA), consists of organizations and individuals interested growing tourism in Cowley County. CCTA has worked and continues to work to increase the number of visitors to our area and to increase the economic impact of tourism.

Tourists from across the globe visit Cowley County each year to seek out the bridges, funneling tourism dollars into Cowley County. Being designated the Stone Arch Bridge Capital would help with the marketing and promotion of the bridges and the county therefore attract new visitors.

Thank you for your time and consideration of support for the designation of the Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas.

Kerri Falletti, CEcD
Director of Community & Economic Development



RESOLUTION NO. 2015- 03
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF COWLEY COUNTY, KANSAS

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A HOUSE BILL DESIGNATING COWLEY COUNTY AS THE STONE ARCH BRIDGE CAPITAL OF KANSAS.

WHEREAS, the Cowley County Tourism Alliance (CCTA) was established to promote tourism throughout Cowley County. The members of this group are Pam Crain (Arkansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau), Denise Noonan (Cowley County Farm Bureau), Kerri Falletti and Deb Firebaugh (Cowley First), Elaine Webb and Lonnie Stieben (Southern Kansas Telephone), Sarah Werner (Winfield Convention and Visitors Bureau), and Marsha Wessler and Donna Martin (Eastern Cowley County Representatives), and;

WHEREAS, the CCTA has investigated the total number of stone arch bridges by County, and;

WHEREAS, Cowley County, Kansas has eighteen stone arch bridges, and with the exception of Cowley, no other county has more than seven stone arch bridges in Kansas and;


WHEREAS, the stone arch bridges are touted as historical locations in the county and attract visitors seeking them on self-guided tours, and,

WHEREAS, Cowley County has often been referred to as the "Stone Arch Bridge Capital of Kansas" by organizations such as the Kansas Sampler Organization, and;

WHEREAS, the stone arch bridges are one of our prominent connections with history, architecture and tourism. These bridges, constructed between 1890 and 1910, include (one) two stone arch bridge and (one) three stone arch bridge, and two of our stone arch bridges are listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

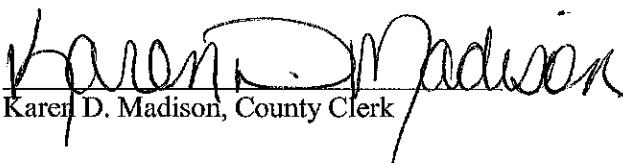
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Cowley County Board of County Commissioners that we support our delegation to the Kansas House of Representatives and their efforts to name Cowley County Kansas as the Stone Arch Bridge Capital of Kansas.

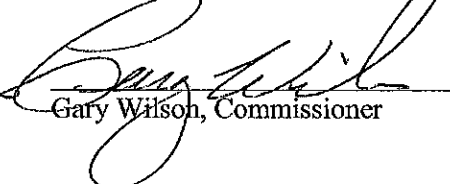
ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of February, 2015.


Wayne Wilt, Chair


Alan Groom, Vice Chair

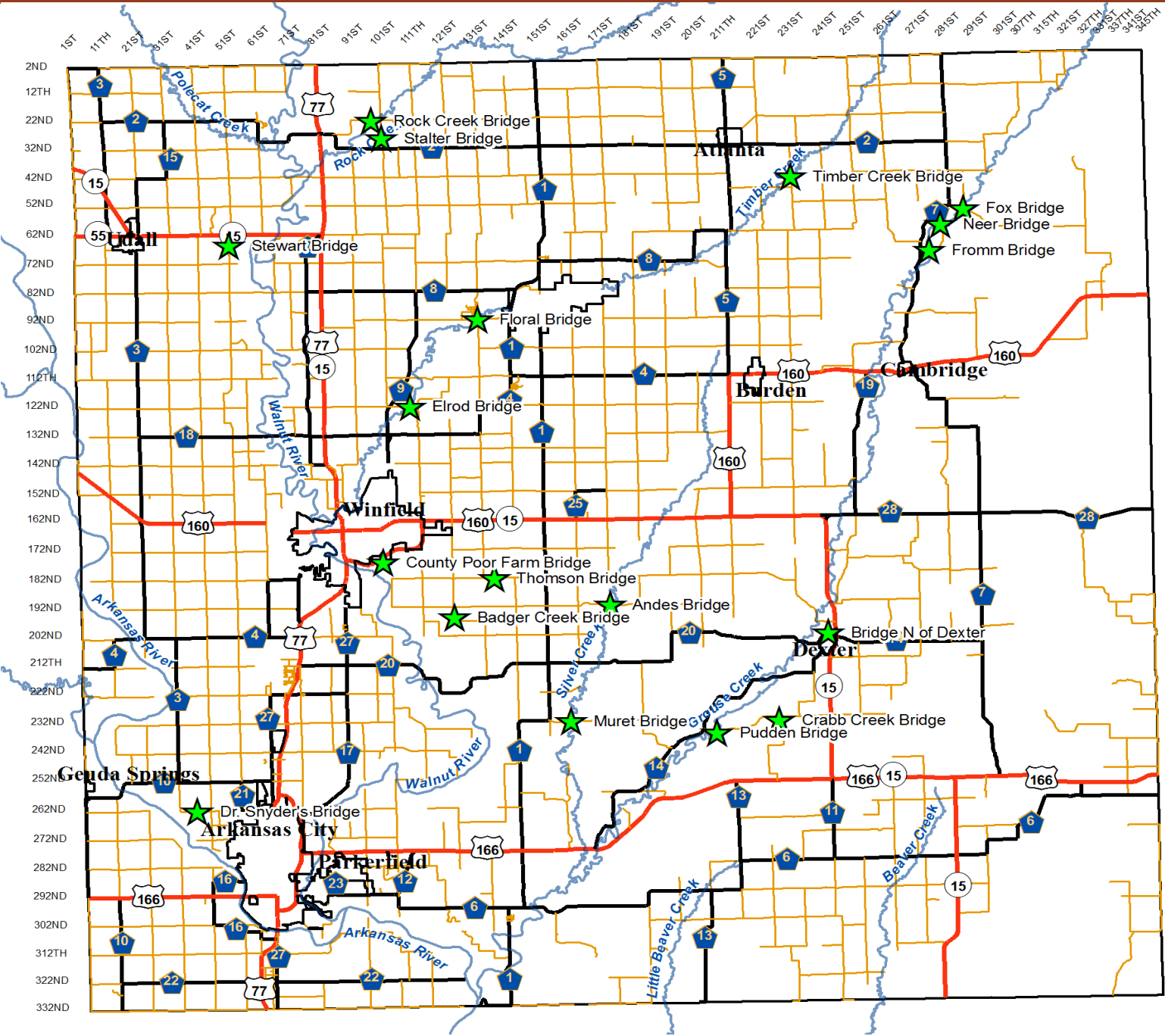
ATTEST:


Karen D. Madison, County Clerk


Gary Wilson, Commissioner

Bridge Name	Year	Arches	Driving Instructions
Elrod	1908	1	North of Winfield on Cowley 18 (132nd Rd) to 111th Rd. Turn north-1 mile to 122nd Rd-west on dead end Rd. Road and bridge is closed-must walk to bridge.
Floral**	1906	1	North of Winfield on Hwy 77 to Cowley 8 (82 nd Rd). Travel south onto 131 st /Church Rd, south through Floral .5 miles on 129th to 92nd; east .2 miles. Floral Bridge spans Timber Creek.
Stewart	1904	1	North of Winfield on Hwy 77 and west on K-15. Travel 3 miles west on K-15 and .5 mile south on 51 st Rd. Stewart Bridge spans Edward Creek.
Stalter	?	1	North of Winfield on Hwy 77 to Rock-at the main intersection in Rock travel east to 101 st Rd and turn north .3 miles. Spans Rock Creek.
Rock Creek	1910	2	From Stalter Bridge travel north .6 miles to 22 nd Rd-turn west .2 miles. Stalter Creek spans Rock Creek.
Timber Creek	1908	1	Travel east of Atlanta 2 miles, travel south on 231st Rd 1.5 miles-spans Timber Creek.
Fromm	1917	1	North of Cambridge on 281 st Rd (Cowley 7). East of Cowley 7 on 275 th Rd .3 miles-spans Grouse Creek.
Neer**	1910	2	From the Fromm Bridge continue on 275th Rd -curves to the north. Drive 1.3 miles-spans Grouse Creek.
Fox**	1910	1	North of Cambridge on 281 Rd (Cowley 7). East on 62 nd Rd .4 miles then south on 285 th Rd-spans Grouse Creek. Return to Cowley 7 after viewing bridge.
Crabb Creek	1900	1	South of Dexter on K-15, west on 232 nd Rd-go about 1.5 miles-south on 223 rd Rd-spans Crabb Creek.
Pudden	1890	3	From Crabb Creek Bridge turn around then go west on 232 nd Rd-spans Grouse Creek/Crabb Creek.
Muret	1890	1	North of Hwy 166 on Cowley 1 travel north 4.5 miles; or south of Hwy 160 travel 7 miles on Cowley 1 -turn east on 232 nd Rd-spans Silver Creek.
Andes** (Silver Creek)	1890	2	East of Cowley 1 on 192 nd Rd-about 2 miles-spans Silver Creek.
Badger Creek**	1900	1	West of Cowley 1 on 192 nd Rd-west 3 miles-south .5 miles on 121 st Rd-spans Badger Creek.
Thomson Bridge	1906	1	South of Hwy 160 on 131st Rd, east on 182nd Rd .3 miles. Bridge spans East Badger Creek.
County Poor Farm*	1910	1	1 mile east of Hwy 77 and Hwy 360 intersection. South on Joel Mack Road .2 miles-road curves to the left-do not take curve but continue straight about 200 feet.

* Point of interest-County Poor Farm Cemetery-on Joel Mack Rd.-1 mile south of Hwy 360.
**Best Bridges for viewing. Many of the others can be driven across, but cannot be seen well without trespassing on private property.



This data has been prepared from information obtained from federal, state, and local sources. Cowley County and Cowley County Tourism Alliance (CCTA) cannot be responsible for the accuracy of the information contained from these sources and certain information contained in this data may have been changed since such information was compiled. Therefore, no warranties or representations whatsoever, express or implied, including warranties of fitness, are made by Cowley County or affiliates of CCTA with respect to this data. Under no circumstances shall Cowley County or CCTA be responsible to any party for the costs, expenses or damages to any person or property from the

Legend

Stone Arch Bridge

River

City Limits

County Blacktop RD

Fed/State HWY

Township Gravel RD

Arkansas City
Convention & Visitors Bureau
106 S. Summit St
Arkansas City, KS 67005
620.442.0236
arkcity.org

Winfield
Convention & Tourism
123 E. 9th Ave
Winfield, KS 67156
620.221.2420
visitwinfield.com

Cowley First
Economic Development
22193 Tupper St
Winfield, KS 67156
620.221.9951
visit.cowleycounty.org



Stone Arch Bridges

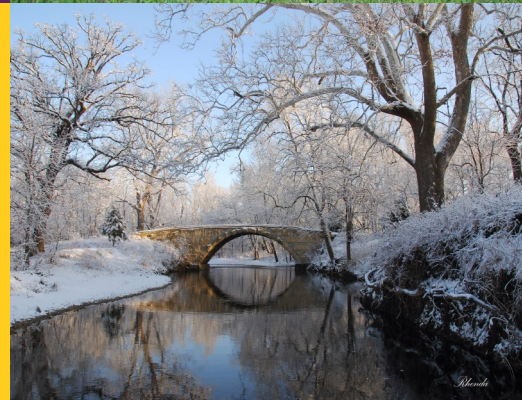


Cowley County

Elrod Bridge



Badger Creek Bridge



Enjoy a driving tour of the 16 historical
stone arch bridges in Cowley County.

visit.cowleycounty.org

Welcome to Cowley County

People from across the globe come to Cowley County to visit the historic bridges including the stone arch bridges.

There are only 1,700 stone arch bridges remaining in the United States with more than 16 century bridges across Cowley County.

In addition to the enclosed map, a printable map is available at visit.cowleycounty.org or contact a tourism specialist at either the Arkansas City or Winfield Chamber for more information.

An additional resource is bridgehunter.com where you will find a listing of historic bridges.

While visiting the stone arch bridges in Cowley County keep in mind that most locations are surrounded by private property. While the roadway is public access, the land around and under the bridge requires land owner permission to enter.

We hope you enjoy your visit in Cowley County and all that our communities offer.

Happy Bridge Hunting!
Cowley County Tourism Alliance

Fox Bridge



Andes Bridge



Fromm Bridge



Floral Bridge

