



June 20, 2025

To: Historic Districts Review Board

RE: Shelby Street Footbridge Replacement Designs

Dear HDRB:

The two preceding cases heard on this structure were to determine the historic status of the footbridge and to request its demolition. The current request is for the HDRB to review and approve one of the two designs to replace the existing bridge.

An Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) will be held June 24th, 2025, and the relevant public comment from the meeting will be presented to HDRB for their consideration in the design options.

The presentation of the case materials herein is designed to do the following:

- Help the HDRB understand the changes between the existing and proposed through photos and drawings.
- Provide images of nearby bridges for the HDRB to look at design and color of bridges crossing the Santa Fe River.
- To receive input on the overall design including whether a low-profile prefab pedestrian bridge is desired or if the HDRB finds that a bridge with a stone façade is more desirable.
- To receive input on colors of the railings and material used for the approach of the bridge and the bridge decking.
- To determine if a plaque relaying the history of the bridge and the river park is an appropriate mitigation for removal of the bridge.

CASE OUTLINE

- 1) Design Description
- 2) Figures
- 3) Response to exception criteria for replacement of a contributing (if applicable)

As the historic status review will be heard concurrently with the design presentation, we have responded to an exception to remove historic material (14-5.2(D)(5)(b)) if an exception is applicable.

FIGURES AND CASE MATERIALS

- Project Location (Figure 1)
- Photos of the existing bridge (Figures 2 and 3)
- Site Plan- Existing and proposed (Figure 4)
- Examples of bridges crossing the river near the project area (Figures 5, 6, and 7)
- Design 1- Prefab Pedestrian Bridge (Figures 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13)
 - Existing and proposed elevations
 - Renderings
- Design 2- Prefab Pedestrian Bridge with Rock Facing (replace in-kind option) (Figures 14, 15, and 16)
 - Renderings
- Full Size Drawings and Renderings (Appendix A)

The existing Shelby Street footbridge is a narrow 4-foot bridge with a failing deck structure and non-structural rock façade on the east and west sides. The rock used is limestone and the railings for the bridge are painted metal pipe. The bridge has been closed since 2022 when it became unsafe for pedestrian travel. In addition to being unsafe to support pedestrians, the bridge is not safe in the event of a flooding of the Santa Fe River, and it does not meet current building code or ADA compliance.

For these reasons, a demolition of the bridge was requested in the previous case. Two designs are presented here and include a prefab pedestrian bridge that is visually light and does not distract from the surroundings of the river park (Design 1) and a prefab bridge with a stone façade (Design 2). Both bridges will have the same construction materials which included: a light metal frame with pickets, a six-foot wide bridge deck of concrete or other material, and bridge approach of concrete and/or brick, and pilasters at each end of the bridge deck. Design 2 offers an in-kind bridge design with a non-structural stone façade. It may be possible to salvage the existing stones to incorporate into the new bridge façade.

Below are two tables for comparison of the existing and proposed dimensions and design elements. It is requested that the design details be discussed once a bridge design has been chosen.

Dimensions

Bridge Element	Existing	Proposed
Bridge Length	37'-3" long	42'-0 long
Deck	4'-0" wide, 27'-5" long	6'-0" wide, 39'-0" long
Rail Height	18"	3'-10"

Design

Bridge Element	Existing	Proposed
Frame/Structure	Concrete and steel wire	Prefab metal
Façade	Limestone	No stone Stone
Approach	Concrete	Concrete Brick
Pilaster/End Caps	Stone	CMU and Stucco Stone Other variation
Railings	Metal tube pipe	Metal painted black or brown
Deck	Concrete	Concrete Brick Wood

Commemorative Plaque

Both national and state the histories of the Santa Fe River Park are informative to people experiencing this area in the Downtown and Eastside Historic District. A commemorative plaque discussing the history of the park may be a good way to honor the existing bridge after it has been removed and convey the sense of place that the park creates for its users. Language and design of the plaque could be provided to the HDRB at a future hearing if this mitigation measure is chosen.

PROJECT LOCATION

The City of Santa Fe Parks and Open Space Division requests approval of a design of the replacement of the Shelby Street footbridge. The bridge crosses the river near the intersection of Shelby Street and E. Alameda on the north bank and near E. DeVargas Street on the south bank (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Project location. Bridge location shown outlined in red. (Image from HCPI form.)

PHOTOS OF THE EXISTING BRIDGE



Figure 2. Shelby Street Footbridge, west elevation, view east.



Figure 3. Shelby Street Footbridge, east elevation, view west/southwest.

PHOTOS OF BRIDGES CROSSING THE SANTA FE RIVER



Figure 4. Bridge Style 1, metal pipe railing with narrow wooden deck.



Figure 5. Bridge Style 2, wooden rails with tight spacing between the pickets and a wooden deck.



Figure 6. Bridge Style 3, metal prefab bridge with wood decking.

SITE PLAN

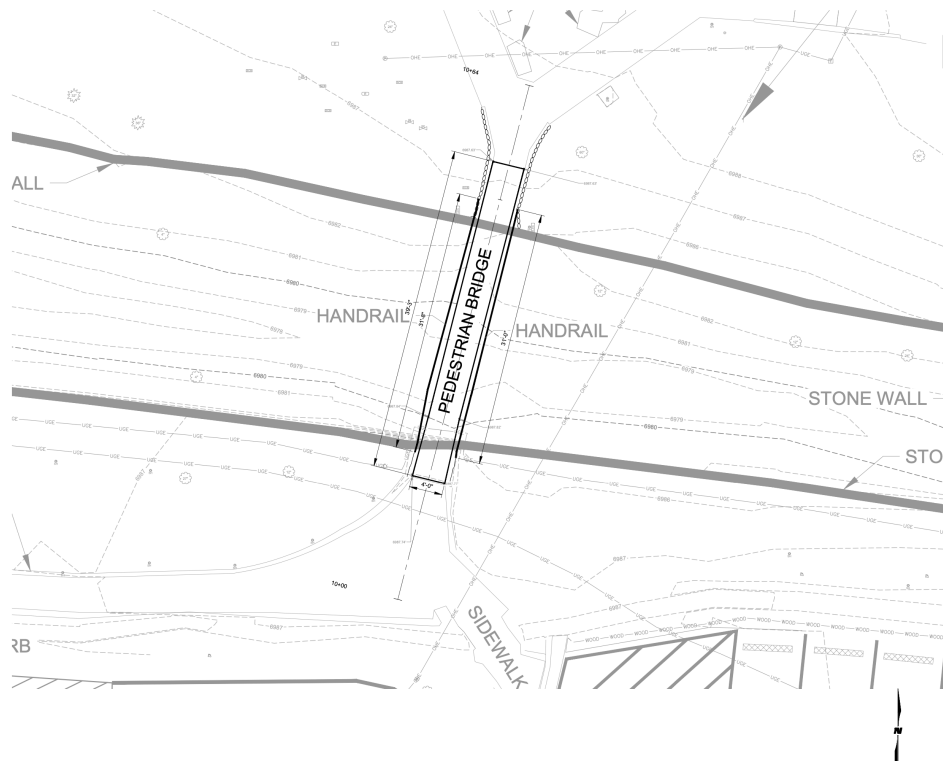


Figure 7. Existing and proposed site plan.

DESIGN 1

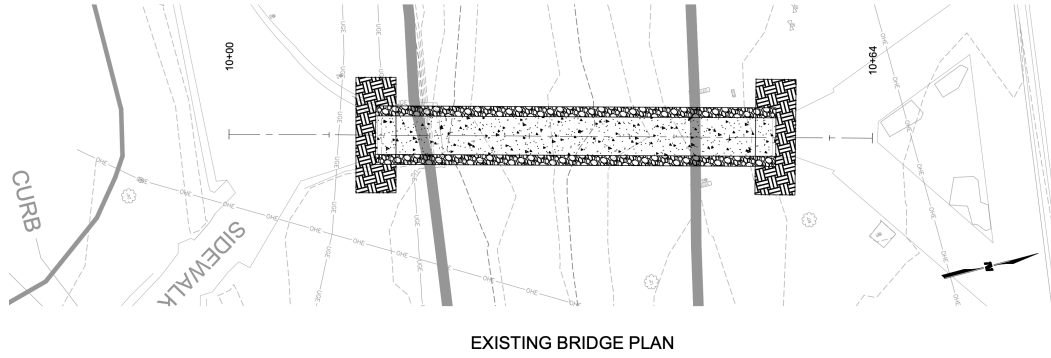


Figure 8. Existing bridge plan view.

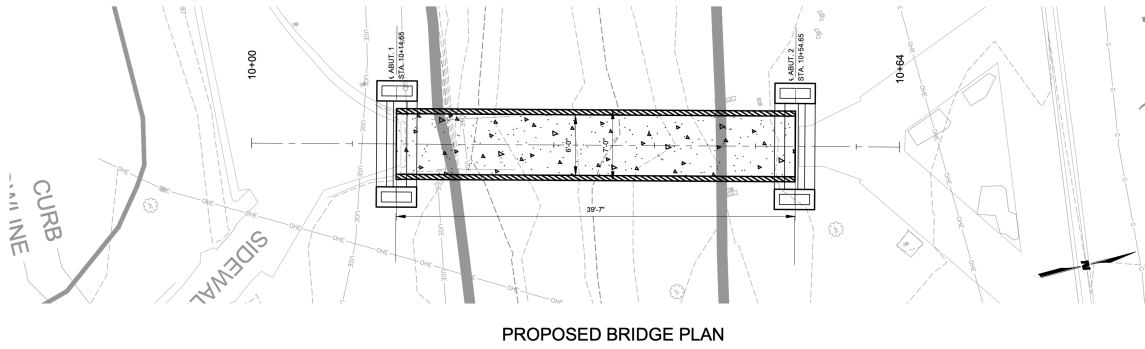


Figure 9. Proposed bridge plan view.

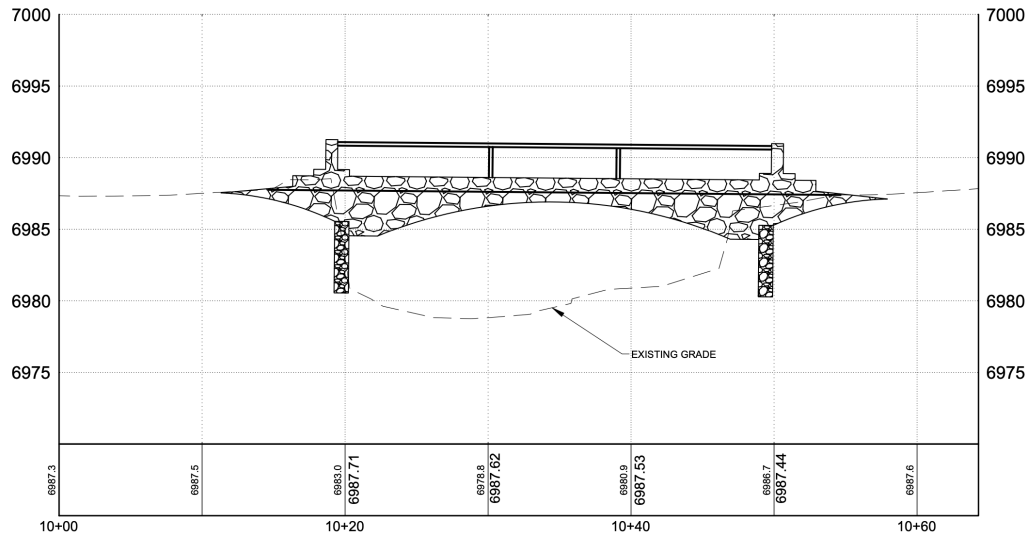


Figure 10. Existing east and west profile elevations of the bridge.

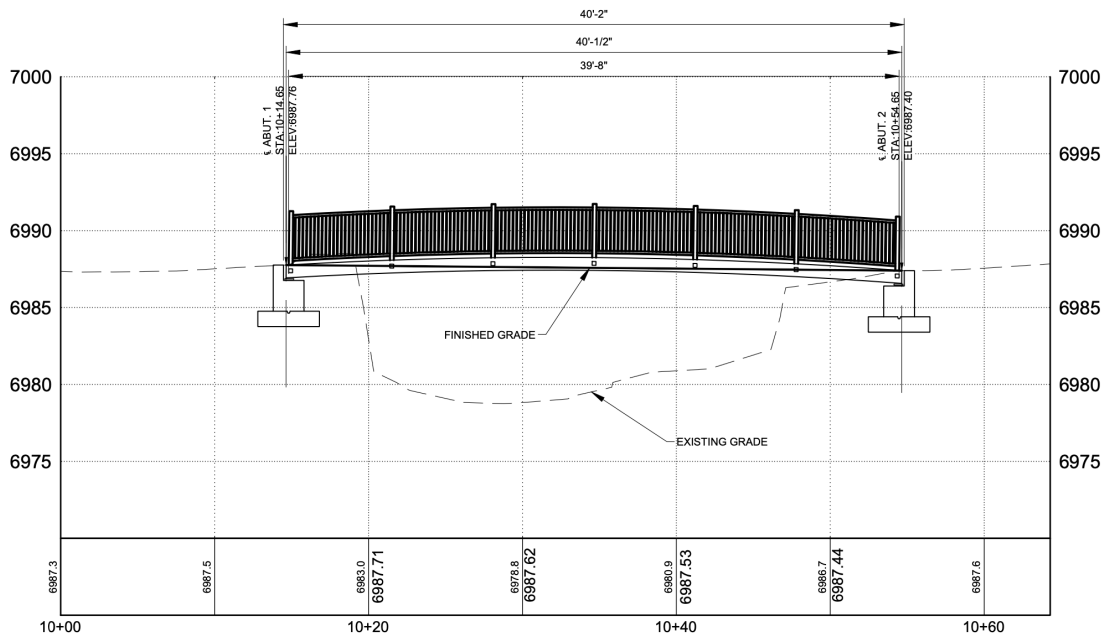


Figure 11. Proposed north and south profile elevation of the bridge.

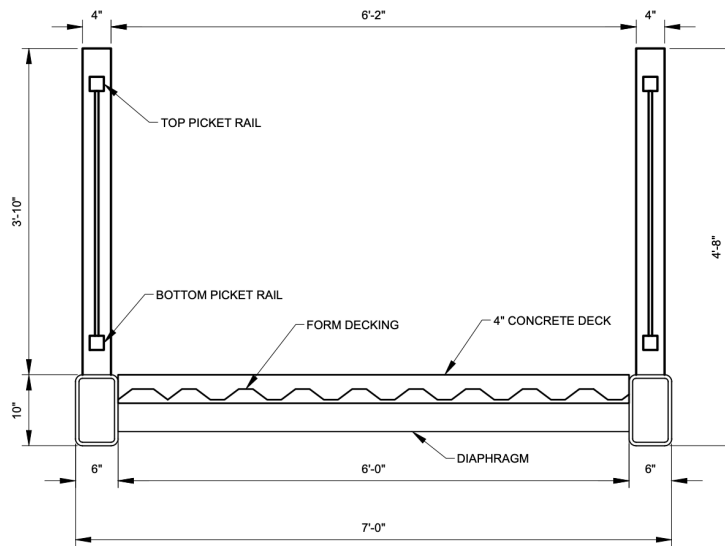


Figure 12. Proposed dimensions and details of the north and south ends of the bridge.



Figure 13. Rendering of a similar style of bridge as is proposed for Design 1.

DESIGN 2



Figure 14. Rendering of a redesigned footbridge to replace the existing, looking southeast.



Figure 15. Rendering of a redesigned footbridge to replace the existing, looking south.



Figure 14. Rendering of a redesigned footbridge to replace the existing, plan view.

Exception Requested to Remove Historic Material (14-5.2(D)(5)(b))

i. Does not damage the character of the district.

The Shelby Street bridge is one of several small bridges that crosses the Santa Fe River, connecting the north and south banks. Small foot bridges and vehicular bridges which have existed since the river began to channelize around 1893 with the construction of Two Mile Dam. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and other historic maps indicate that the bridges crossing the river were stone, wood, and now concrete- changing materials over time to accommodate the modernizing and engineering needs for crossing a river channel. The nearest pedestrian bridge to the Shelby Street bridge is the Brother's Lane bridge. This bridge was last replaced around 2016 and is now a wooden bridge with wooden rails. Given that bridge materials change over time, removal of the stone bridge will not damage the character of the district.

To remove the bridge entirely would change the character of this location along the river park, but the bridge will be replaced. The current situation of having a closed and dangerous bridge along a main street in the downtown area is damaging to the district

despite being constructed of materials not of historical age. Demolishing and replacing the bridge is not.

The removal of the bridge will not affect the space that embodies the bridge, which is the river park. The river park, with other bridges crossing the river, will remain intact and the overall character and design of the river park property will continue with the bridge replacement. However, the request is to remove historic material, and this request is being made because of the structures condition and the inability to restore the structure. The historic material will be removed but the design presentation has demonstrated that a replacement bridge will maintain and contribute to the river park and the design of the bridge will be in keeping with the historic district standards. One of the proposed designs offers the potential of reusing the stone for a reconstructed stone façade if that is desired by the HDRB. The other design proposed to be non-intrusive visually and stylistically. A commemorative plaque is also proposed to mitigate removal of the historic material.

ii. Are required to prevent a hardship to the applicant or injury to the public welfare. As is demonstrated through photos and letters in the demolition case preceding this case the structure has failed, and the bridge is a public safety concern as it lacks structural integrity. The bridge is beyond repair. Removal of the historic material that composes the bridge is required to prevent injury to the public welfare, both bodily injury and liability to the City of Santa Fe.

iii. Strengthens the unique heterogenous character of the City by providing a full range of design options to ensure residents can continue to reside in the historic districts.

Several design options were considered and options 3 and 4 below have been chosen to present to the HDRB in the design review case. Both designs strengthen the unique heterogenous character of downtown Santa Fe and the river park area.

The design options considered were:

- 1) Leave the bridge and permanently close it.
- 2) Demolish the bridge and not replace it.
- 3) Demolish the bridge and replace it with a modern prefab pedestrian bridge as seen in other areas along the Santa Fe River.
- 4) Demolish the bridge and replace it with a modern prefab pedestrian bridge with non-structural rock girders to match closely the existing design.

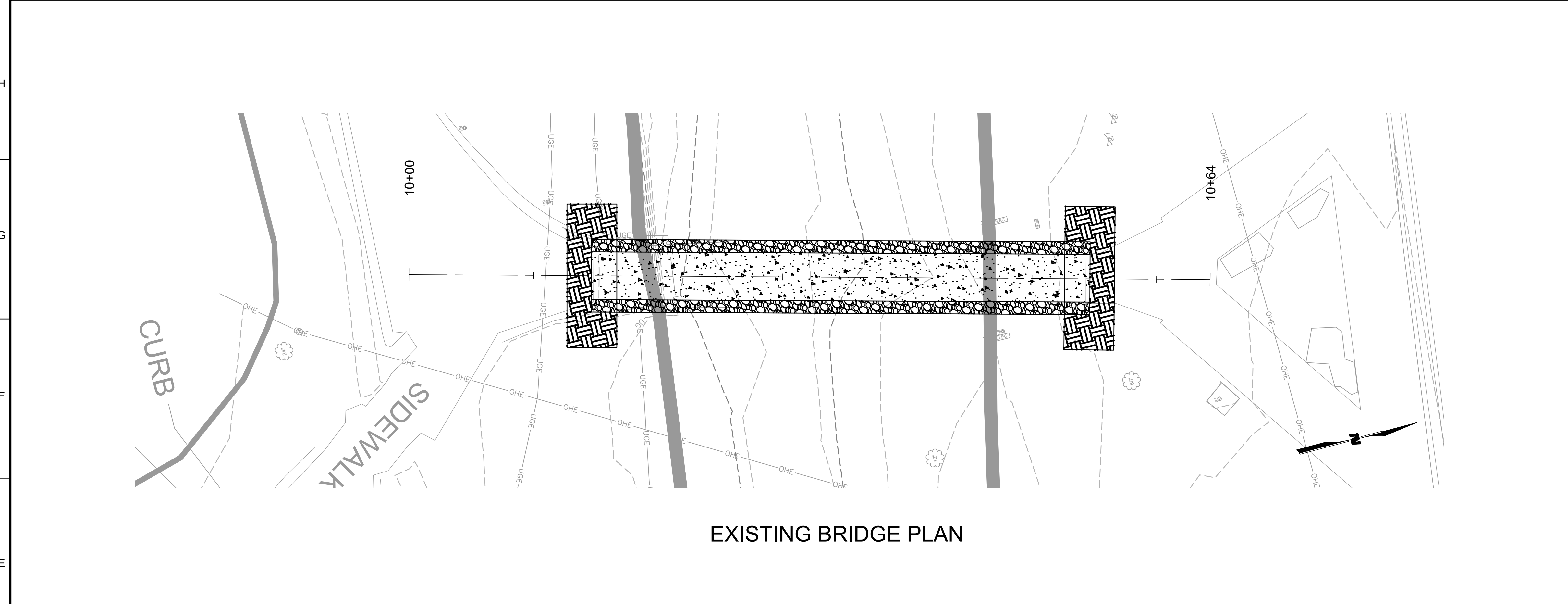
Thank you for your time and consideration of the designs and information presented.

Sincerely,

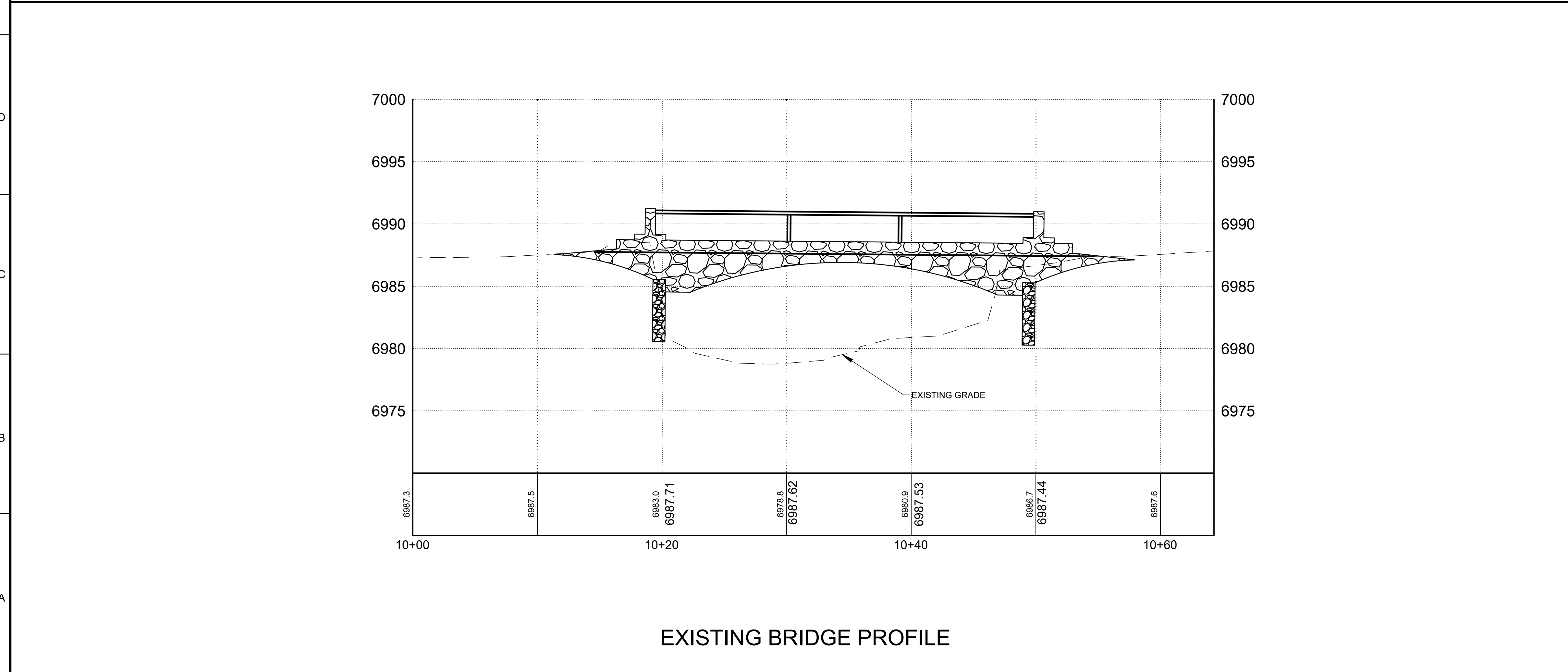
Nicole A. Ramirez Thomas
Wonderstone LLC
Principal/ Owner

APPENDIX A
Drawings and Renderings

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EXISTING BRIDGE PLAN



EXISTING BRIDGE PROFILE

GENERAL SHEET NOTES

KEYNOTES

LEGEND

- 6690 EXISTING CONTOURS
- ROCK FROM EXISTING BRIDGE
- CONCRETE BRIDGE DECK
- EARTH/SOIL

WILSON & COMPANY
 4401 MASTHEAD ST. NE, SUITE 150
 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109
 PHONE: 505-348-4000
 FAX: 505-348-4055
 www.wilsonco.com

CONSULTANTS

30% SUBMITTAL
 NOT FOR
 CONSTRUCTION

SEAL

PROJECT NAME
**SHELBY ST.
 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

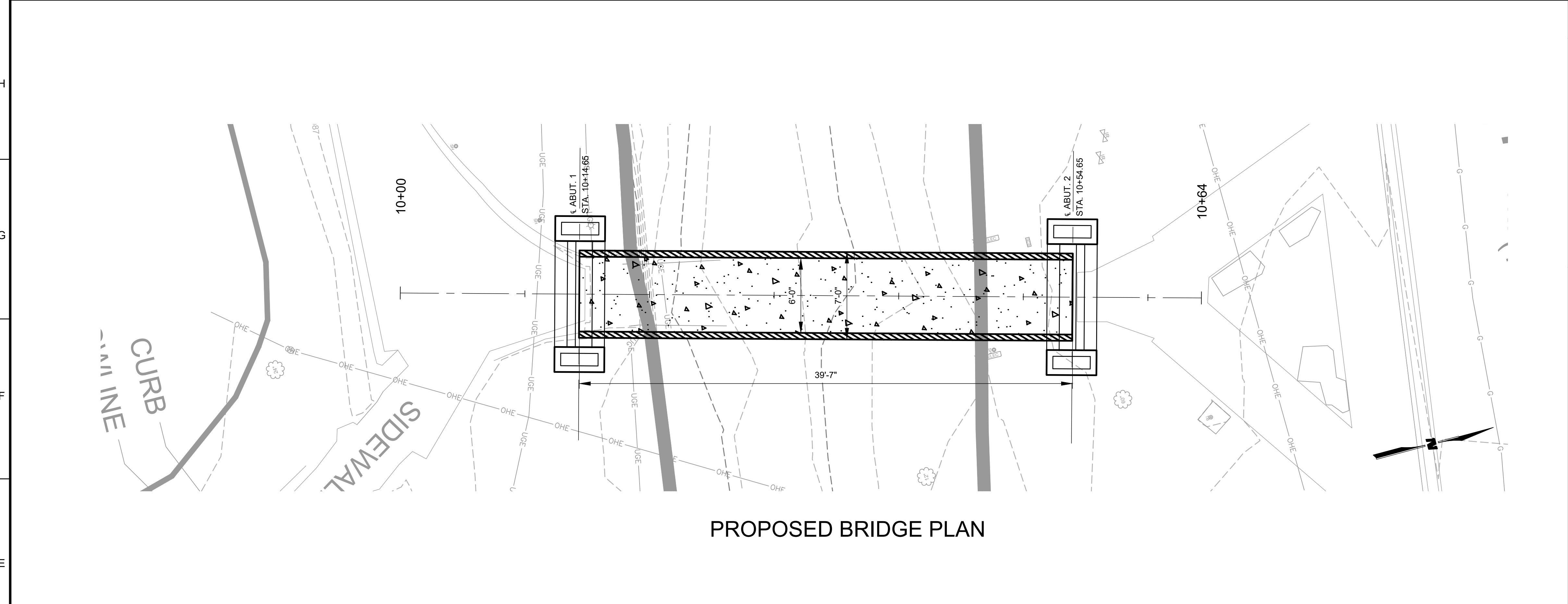
REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

PROJECT NO:	23-600-030-17
DESIGNED BY:	CVA
DRAWN BY:	AWP
CHECKED BY:	TA
DATE:	JUN 2025

SHEET TITLE
**EXISTING PLAN &
 PROFILE**

SHEET NO:
XX

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PROPOSED BRIDGE PLAN

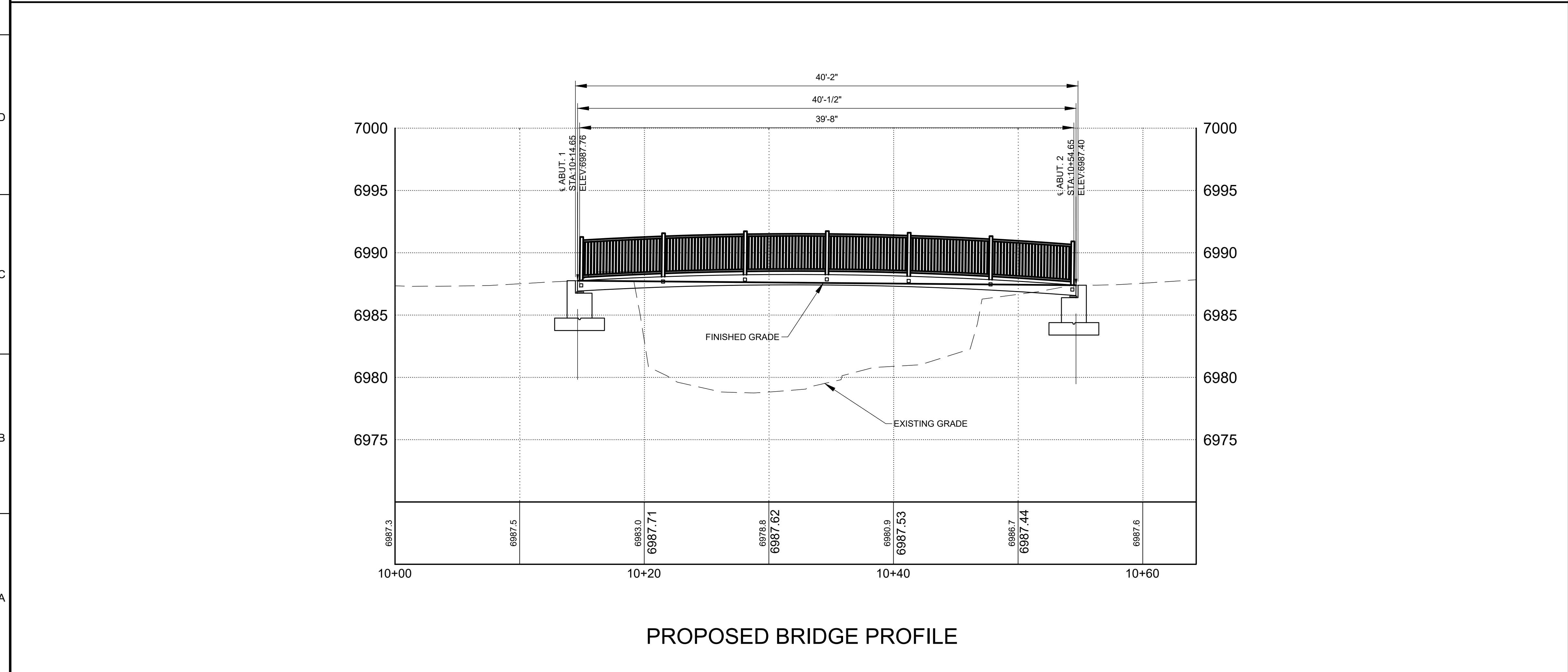
GENERAL SHEET NOTES

- DIMENSIONS SHOW ARE FOR INFORMATIONAL USE ONLY. VALUES MAY VARY SLIGHTLY DEPENDING ON TRUSS MANUFACTURER
- CONTRACTOR TO SUBMIT TRUSS DESIGN TO ENGINEER, STAMPED BY A NM PE, PRIOR TO ANY WORK PERFORMED ON ABUTMENTS.

KEYNOTES

LEGEND

- CONCRETE BRIDGE DECK
- BRIDGE RAILING



PROPOSED BRIDGE PROFILE

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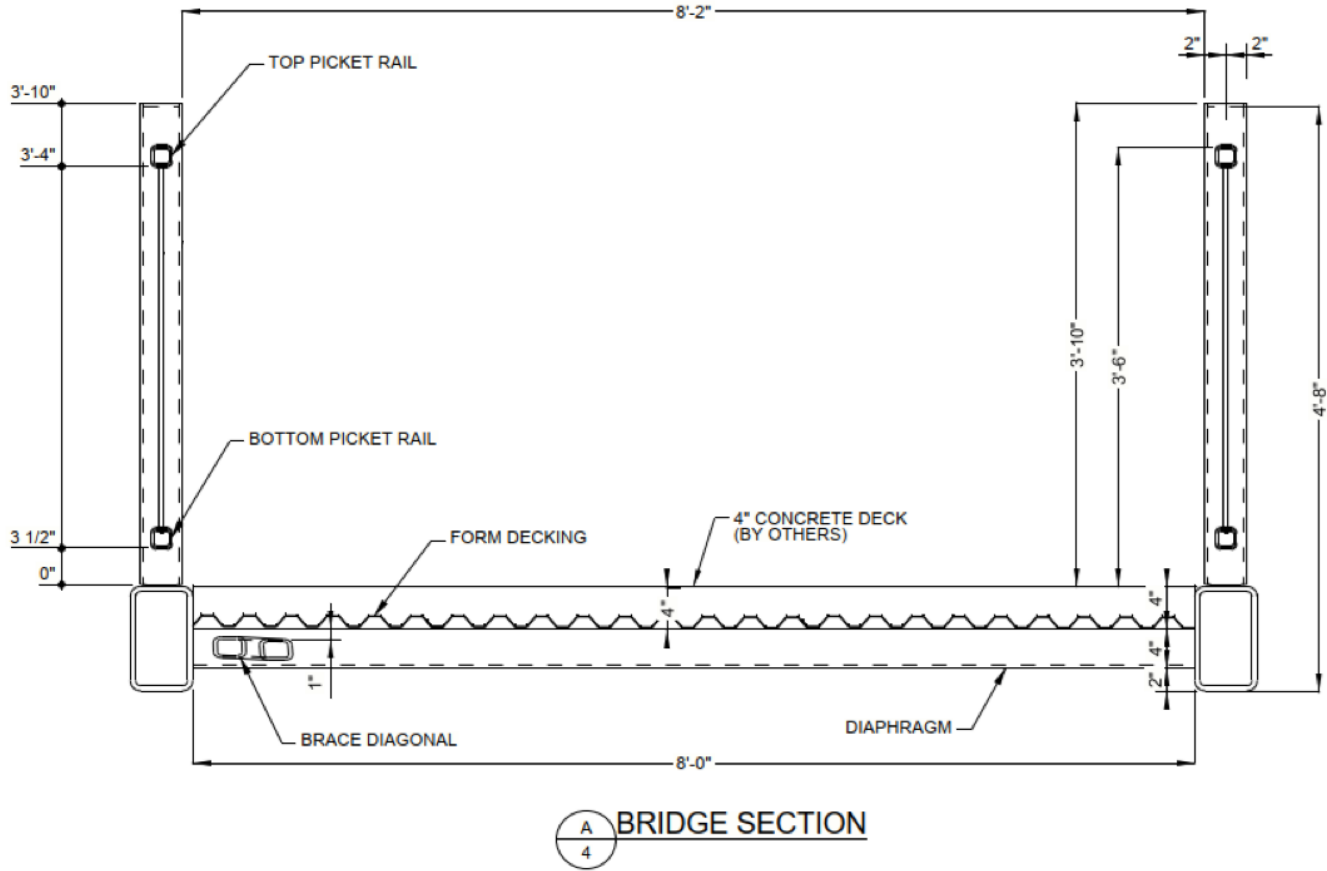
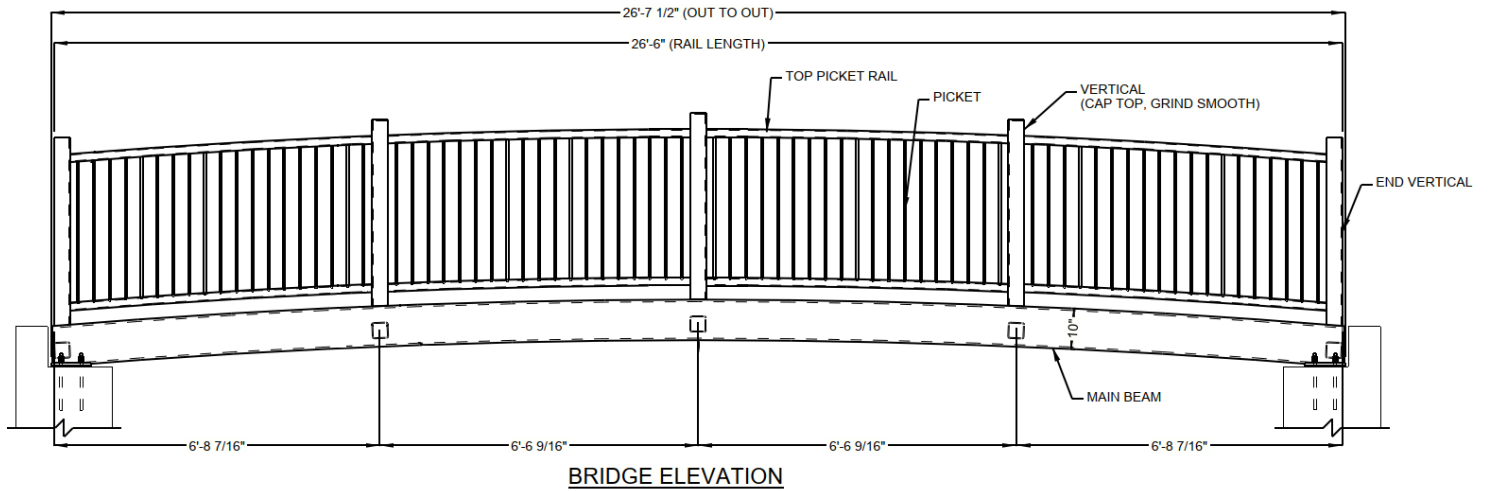
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SHEET TITLE
PLAN & PROFILE

SHEET NO:
XX

Shelby St. Bridge – Santa Fe, NM



Shelby St. Bridge – Santa Fe, NM

Proposed Style









