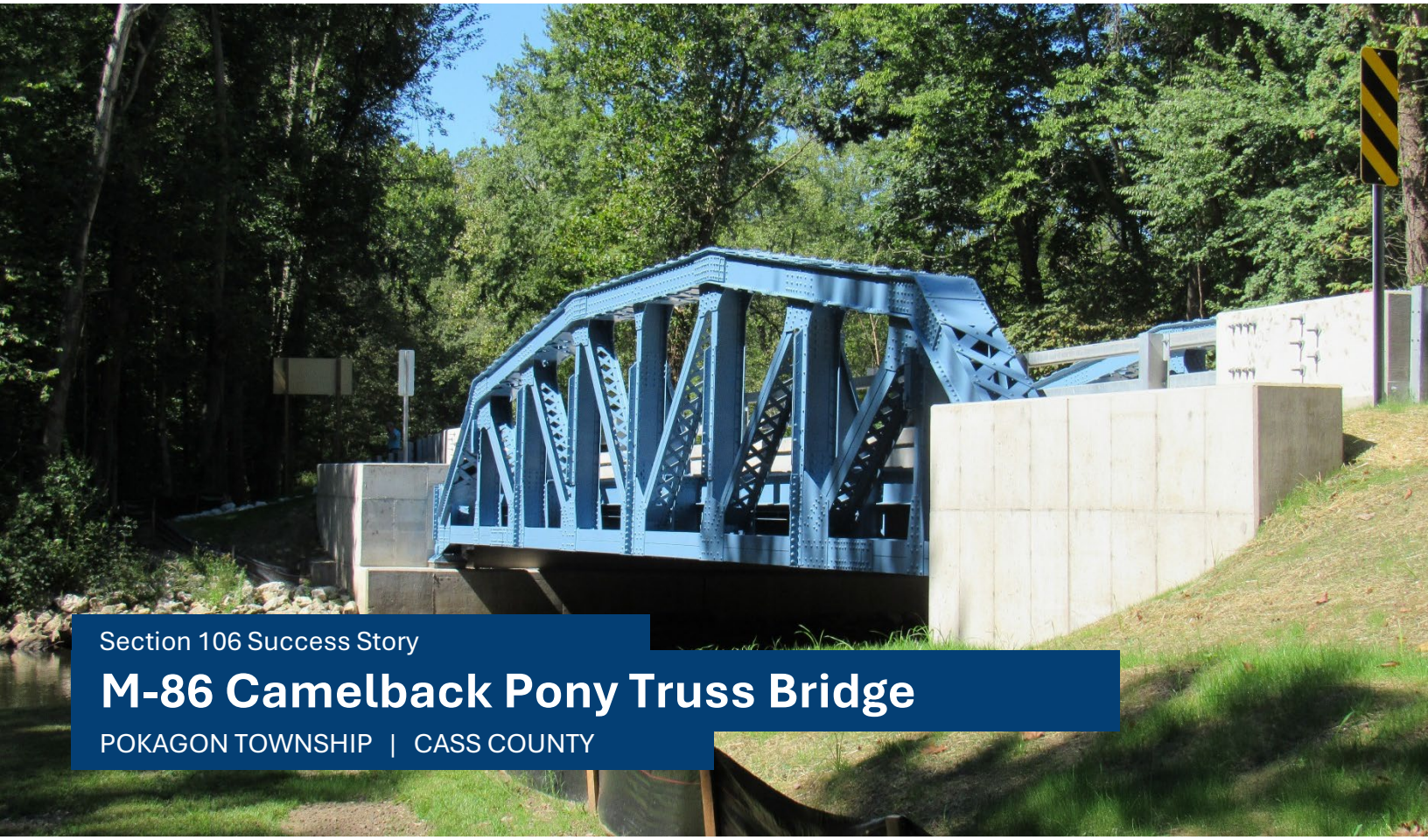


Section 106 Success Story

M-86 Camelback Pony Truss Bridge

POKAGON TOWNSHIP | CASS COUNTY

This 1923 camelback pony truss bridge on Highway M-86 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2000. By 2011, it had become functionally obsolete, but was also the last of its kind on a state trunkline. In planning for its replacement, as part of the Section 106 process MDOT began searching for a county road department in need of a bridge for local traffic, where the M-86 bridge might see continued life.

That partner was found in the Cass County Road Commission, which was seeking to replace an equally elderly bridge where Crystal Spring Road crosses over the Dowagiac River. This limited traffic location allowed the pony truss bridge to be rehabilitated with rivets, in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The bridge was carefully disassembled, and steel was cleaned or replaced were needed. Skilled riveters replaced nearly 1,400 hot rivets in the same manner as the bridge was originally constructed. The steel was reassembled on new piers and given a fresh coat of paint. It has become a landmark for both motorists and kayakers who frequent this stretch of the river. In this project, a significant bridge was saved and given a new home where it will continue to function long into its second century. The project was awarded a Governor's Award for Historic Preservation by the State of Michigan in 2021.

LOCATION

Pokagon Township, Cass County, MI

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

FEDERAL AGENCY

Federal Highway Administration

PROJECT DATE

2011