



### Project Background and Need:

The National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to prepare an Environmental Assessment to study a range of alternatives to evaluate possible impacts which may be associated with the potential rehabilitation or replacement of the Alexander's Bridge (Structure # 5220-001P) and the Slough Bridge (Structure # 5220-002P), located in the Chickamauga Battlefield unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (CHCH NMP).

CHCH NMP was established in 1890 for the purpose of "... preserving and suitably marking for historical and professional military study the fields of some of the most remarkable maneuvers and most brilliant fighting of the war of the rebellion...". At approximately 9,036 acres, CHCH NMP is the largest, and oldest, military park in the national park system.

Alexander's Bridge spans West Chickamauga Creek. The original bridge, constructed of wood, was a key structure used during the Battle of Chickamauga. In 1897, the original bridge was replaced with a wood, low-truss bridge built on stone abutments. In 1907, the wood, low-truss bridge was replaced with a steel "pony" truss superstructure using the existing abutments. During that same year, the Slough Bridge was built, constructed of a reinforced concrete deck set on steel stringers with native stone abutments. Slough Bridge crosses a tributary of West Chickamauga Creek (a slough which accommodates overflow during high water events). Both bridges are contributing historic resources to the park's 1890-1942 Commemorative Period.

The bridges, separated by a ninety degree bend, are located within 300 feet of each other, on Alexander's Bridge Road (Park Route 13). The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for the road is 370 vehicles. Access to a private residence is located between the bridges.

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