



Contact Joanna Wolaver, Executive Director
Cell 512-565-0812
Email joanna@shoalcreekconservancy.org
Website www.shoalcreekconservancy.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2014

West 6th St. Bridge at Shoal Creek Recommended for National Register of Historic Places *Conservancy Committed to Protecting and Restoring This Unique Austin Treasure*

AUSTIN, TEXAS – This past Saturday, May 17th, the Texas Historical Commission voted to recommend nomination of the West 6th Street Bridge over Shoal Creek to the National Register of Historic Places. The U.S. Park Service will consider the nomination in the coming months, and the bridge could be listed on the Registry as early as this fall.

The West 6th Street Bridge, historically known as Pecan Street Bridge, is an important Austin historical landmark. Built in 1887 at the site of the first bridge in Austin, it is one of the state's oldest masonry arches and is older than the Texas State Capitol Building.

"Thousands of Austinites use the West 6th Street Bridge over Shoal Creek every day, but few realize it is a beautiful hand-crafted historic structure. Next time you walk or bike along the Shoal Creek trail or drive across the 6th Street Bridge, take a moment to admire this unique Austin treasure" said **Joanna Wolaver, Executive Director of the Shoal Creek Conservancy**.

The Shoal Creek Conservancy pursued listing in the National Register as key component of its West 6th Street Bridge Project. Listing provides national recognition of the bridge's historical and architectural significance and denotes that it is worthy of preservation.

"The Conservancy is committed to protecting and restoring this significant landmark by registering it as a historic place at the city and national level as well as raising funds and advocating for the restoration of the bridge, lighting, landscaping, and creation and implementation of a protocol for ongoing maintenance. This designation will greatly assist our efforts to pursue funds for its restoration," said **Ted Siff, Board President of the Shoal Creek Conservancy**.

For well over a century, this bridge has served as a major east-west transportation artery for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians.

"With our global headquarters building at 6th Street and West Avenue, the West 6th bridge connects Austin's historic past with an exciting future and an unrivaled modern downtown experience," said **Jo-Dee Benson, Chief Culture Officer, Cirrus Logic**. "Every day, dozens of our employees experience the bridge and the neighboring Shoal Creek trail, and Cirrus Logic is proud to support the bridge's restoration efforts and historic designation."

The West 6th Street Bridge is a three-arch masonry bridge spanning Shoal Creek approximately one-half mile west of the intersection of 6th Street and Congress Avenue. This hand-built structure, comprised of local materials, replaced the first bridge in Austin, an iron bowstring arch that originally opened up the area west of the city to development.

"It is awesome to have the significantly engineered West 6th Street Bridge that has survived periods of tremendous flooding for over 125 years to receive National Register of Historic Places designation!" said **Charles Peveto, a board member of the Old Austin Neighborhood Association and a member of the Conservancy's Historic Bridges Committee**. "The 1887 bridge is an incredible asset for the Shoal Creek Greenbelt," he added.

Once the bridge is listed, the Conservancy will host a public event to celebrate the listing and highlight the importance of the bridge.

The Shoal Creek Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving Shoal Creek for all Austinites – present and future. To learn more, visit www.shoalcreekconservancy.org.



West 6th Street Bridge over Shoal Creek. Photo by Ted Eubanks, Board Member of the Shoal Creek Conservancy

###