



Vertical Visions LLC
PO Box 934
Bridgeport, WV 26330 USA
Phone: (304) 203-8500

Email: jbelle@vertical-visions.com
Website: www.vertical-visions.com
Bridge Day Website: www.bridgeday.info

07 March 2005

Paul A. Mattox, P.E.
Commissioner, WV Department of Highways
Building 5
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0430

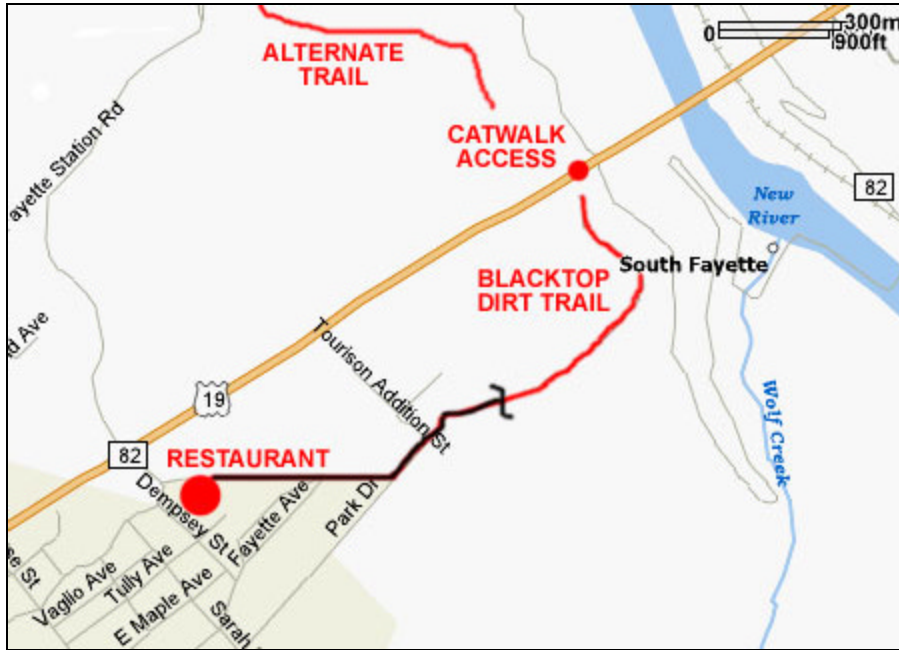
Mr. Mattox,

I recently submitted a proposal to Mr. Jim Lagos from District 9 regarding legal parachute jumps from the New River Gorge Bridge catwalk before Bridge Day 2005. Mr. Lagos denied my request and, subsequently, he suggested that I contact you.

Under the terms set forth by the Bridge Day Commission and other organizations involved in the planning and hosting of the event, we are permitted to make legal parachute jumps from the New River Gorge Bridge for six hours at Bridge Day each year. Unfortunately, this small jumping window doesn't mix well with bad weather as jumpers from around the world have often left Fayetteville without making a single jump. Parachutists themselves spend hundreds of thousands of dollars at local businesses during Bridge Day weekend. The event has been very profitable for local and state businesses and it permits jumpers six hours of freedom to enjoy their sport. The above facts led to my original request, sent to Mr. Lagos, for permission to make legal parachute jumps from the New River Gorge Bridge catwalk during the two days prior to Bridge Day.

We've been jumping at Bridge Day for 25 years and have developed an effective, exceptionally safe system for parachuting from the bridge. Numerous local businesses, newspapers, and radio stations, as well as the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce (304-465-5617), are fully supporting our proposal. My proposal can easily be implemented using many of the traditional techniques and personnel that have been faithful to us over the years. In order to quell any liability concerns you may have, all jumpers and staff are required to sign a waiver that lists the State of West Virginia (including the DOH) as released parties. Minimal DOH support would be required for additional jumping days and we are very much willing to financially support your efforts.

In Mr. Lagos' reply, he expressed concerns over jumpers parking on Route 19. The "Jumper Transportation Plan" on page 6 of my proposal would negate this concern, as jumpers would park on private property near the bridge (a local restaurant that has worked with us for years). Jumpers would then be shuttled to a trailhead on the Southeast end of the bridge. This particular trail is hidden from motorists and is only a few hundreds yards long. An alternate approach would be along a trail hidden from motorists view on the West side of the bridge. After landing, jumpers would be shuttled back to the restaurant using 15 passenger vans or small buses in order to minimize traffic concerns.



If I've been able to convince you of our intense desire to live life to its fullest by parachuting from fixed objects and if you're able to see that we can accommodate any liability, manpower, and financial concerns you may have, then you'll at least give us a chance. We are already making legal parachute jumps from the New River Gorge Bridge and we'd like your permission to extend our window for the enjoyment of jumpers and the benefit to the community. I believe that deep down inside, every person on this earth dreams of flying at one point in their lives. We are willing to work with you in any manner required in order to extend our small jumping window and continue our flights from fixed objects.

I've enclosed two copies of my original proposal for your review. Also included is a Bridge Day 2004 DVD that will give you a better feel for the enjoyment that parachuting brings to both jumpers and spectators. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call or email me. Thank you for taking the time to review this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jason Bell
Bridge Day 2005 BASE Jumping Coordinator
Owner, Vertical Visions LLC

Enclosed: 2 copies of original proposal, 3 Bridge Day DVD's