West Sixth Street Bridge  
Austin • Travis County • Texas • 1887

History
The West Sixth Street Bridge over Shoal Creek is a three-span limestone arch bridge on a major thoroughfare linking downtown and West Austin. Historically known as the Pecan Street Bridge, it was built in 1887 to replace the first bridge that opened up the area west of downtown to development. It is one of the state’s oldest still-standing masonry arch bridges.

FY 2015 Planning Grant
The Shoal Creek Conservancy commissioned Sparks Engineering and Limbacher and Godfrey Architects to prepare a restoration study for the West Sixth Street Bridge. Through analysis that included laser scanning of the bridge, the report identified critical structural concerns from mortar loss and distortion of the ring geometry, resulting in a reduced residual structural capacity. Based on these findings, the city of Austin promptly performed emergency repairs through injection grouting and repointing. Additional repairs remain to be performed, and the report also proposes interpretation and visitor amenities to highlight the bridge at the street and creek levels. The TPTF grant also entailed preparation of a graffiti protection protocol. Through testing of three potential anti-graffiti coatings, the architects identified a product that does not change the appearance of the limestone and can be removed, along with any graffiti, with sponge application of hot water to minimize runoff. Construction documents for the overall $2 million rehabilitation project have been funded in part by a Certified Local Government grant.