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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Closes Kunkle Bridge

Cumberland County, PA- Cumberland County announced today that Kunkle Bridge will be temporarily closed. An annual inspection of the 112 year old, single lane bridge revealed structural deficiencies that require repair. Engineering to replace the bridge is currently underway. The length of the closure is unknown at this time. The county decided to temporarily close the bridge to protect public safety and evaluate repair options in light of the pending replacement of the structure.

Kunkle Bridge provides north-south mobility in South Middleton Township by carrying Petersburg Road over the Yellow Breeches Creek and is used by nearly 700 vehicles per day. Craighead Bridge, on nearby Zion Road, provides similar north-south access in the central portion of the township but is also closed and in the replacement process. The county is evaluating short-term repair options for Kunkle Bridge that could provide for its reopening and alleviate the impact of closing both bridges for a prolonged period of time.

Both bridges are part of the county's Bridge Capital Improvement Plan which details over \$14 million of bridge replacement or repair projects throughout the county in the next 6 years. The primary funding source for the plan is a forthcoming \$5 per vehicle registration fee that the county intends to approve in early 2015. These fees will generate approximately \$1.1 million a year and allow the county to address critical bridge needs without increasing taxes. To generate this level of revenue without the \$5 registration fee, a 2.5% property tax increase each year for the next 6 years would need to be enacted.

The funds generated from the potential vehicle registration fee cannot be used for the County General Fund and are designated for roadways and bridges. The Board of Commissioners will vote on the potential ordinance later this year. For more information in Cumberland County's Bridge Improvement Plan visit the Planning Department's interactive bridge map tool at <http://ccpa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=32752c99cd274013a069dafef7e62200&webmap=1c1ad41077ed424394c7737fa5f07127>.

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