



Cumberland County Planning Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Awards Bid to Repair Bridges

Cumberland County, PA- The Cumberland County Commissioners awarded an \$80,575 bid to Clearwater Construction of Mercer, PA for the repair of Bishop Bridge in Upper Allen Township and Kunkle Bridge in South Middleton Township. The project's contract requires that work on both bridges be completed within 60 days. Both bridges are expected to be reopened in early April 2015. The projects included similar work and were bid as a package to reduce overall costs.

Bishop Bridge was closed on June 24, 2014 after an annual inspection revealed numerous costly deficiencies to the 117 year old, single lane steel truss bridge. Bishop Bridge is co-owned by Cumberland and York Counties and carries Bishop Road over the Yellow Breeches Creek in Upper Allen Township in Cumberland County to Monaghan Township in York County. The bridge has an annual daily traffic of approximately 155 vehicles.

Kunkle Bridge was closed on November 19, 2014 after annual inspection of the 112 year old, single lane bridge revealed structural deficiencies that required its closure. 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.

The repairs to 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 \$5 per vehicle registration fee that Cumberland County approved in January 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 vehicle registration fee cannot be used for the County General Fund and are designated for roadways and bridges. 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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