



Cumberland County Planning Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Cumberland County Awards Bids for Bernheisel Bridge Superstructure Replacement

Cumberland County, PA- The Cumberland County Commissioners awarded a \$1,352,734 contract to Lobar Site Development of Dillsburg, PA for a superstructure replacement of Bernheisel Bridge in Middlesex Township. Bernheisel Bridge is a 55-year old, 4 span, 257 foot long, non-composite prestressed concrete adjacent box beam bridge that crosses over Conodoguinet Creek. The bridge has exhibited critical deficiencies including longitudinal and transverse cracking of the beams that have caused the bridge to be classified as structurally deficient.

The project involves replacement of the superstructure that includes the bridge's beams, deck, and barrier. The bridge will be closed to traffic during construction which is anticipated to last from October to January. A detour will be implemented during that time period and is anticipated to utilize Bernheisel Bridge Road, Sherwood Drive, Foxanna Drive, Rich Valley Road, View Valley Drive, North Locust Point Road, and Green Hill Road totaling 5.6 miles. Due to the presence of the Appalachian Trail across the Bernheisel Bridge, the existing pedestrian walkway across the bridge will be maintained for use during construction.

The project is 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 the County approved in early 2015. The fees will generate approximately \$1.1 million a year and allow the County to address critical bridge needs without increasing taxes. The funds generated from the vehicle registration fee cannot be used for the County General Fund and are designated for roadways and bridges. 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.

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