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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2016

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Geotechnical Boring Requires Closure of Kunkle Bridge

Cumberland County, PA- Kunkle Bridge on Petersburg Road in South Middleton Township will be closed to all traffic on August 31st for Cumberland County to complete geotechnical boring as part of engineering for the bridge's replacement. Work will be conducted on the bridge from August 29th through September 2nd; however, a full closure will only be required on August 31st. The bridge will be open to traffic the remaining days with the County's drilling contractor providing signage and traffic control.

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. In 2014 the County closed the bridge after an annual inspection of the 112 year old, single lane bridge revealed structural deficiencies. The County made interim repairs to the bridge that allowed its reopening in March of 2015. Engineering and design work is currently underway for full replacement of the bridge that is slated for construction in 2018.

The replacement of Kunkle Bridge is part of the County's Bridge Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which details over \$14 million of bridge replacement or repair projects in the next 6 years. The CIP includes repair or replacement projects to the entire inventory of 28 County-owned bridges. The primary funding source for the plan is the \$5 per vehicle registration fee that the County approved 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 vehicle registration fee cannot be used for the County General Fund and are designated for roadways and bridges. For more information on Cumberland County's Bridge Improvement Plan visit the Planning Department's interactive bridge map tool at <https://www.ccpa.net/4239/Bridge-Capital-Improvement-Program>.

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