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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Leverages Added State Funds to Expedite Bridge Repairs

Cumberland County, PA –The Cumberland County Commissioners are in a position to leverage additional state funding to expedite efforts to repair and replace structurally deficient bridges within the County. The Commissioner’s unanimously approved an application for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s (PennDOT) Local Bridge Bundling Program, which will provide at least \$2 million in additional state funding for the County’s Bridge Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Cumberland County is being awarded the additional state funding because of its efforts to aggressively pursue the repair and replacement of structurally deficient bridges with its early adoption of a \$5 vehicle registration fee, as authorized by the state General Assembly (Act 89/2013).

To be completed within three years, the County’s bridge bundling initiative proposes more than \$10 million of work on four county-owned bridges. If the county’s bridge bundling application is approved by PennDOT, the County will receive the \$2 million bonus in state funds. A required 50% local match for these projects will be drawn from revenue derived from the county’s \$5 vehicle registration fee, a levy which can only be used for bridge and road infrastructure improvements. The adoption of the \$5 vehicle registration fee has averted the need for any increase in county property taxes to pay for the county’s bridge capital improvement program.

The four bridges the County identified in its proposal include replacement of Kunkle Bridge in South Middleton Township; replacement of Sample Bridge in Silver Spring Township; rehabilitation of Ramp Bridge in Hopewell Township; and rehabilitation of Hertzler Bridge in West Pennsboro Township.

The new bundling program unveiled by PennDOT currently has a funding pool of \$28 million, that is allocated to the 14 counties that, to date, have adopted the \$5 vehicle registration fee. Additional funding is expected to be available for additional counties that adopt the \$5 vehicle registration fee. Cumberland County could be eligible for additional funding from dollars remaining in the funding pool in the third cycle of the program. In addition to enacting the local \$5 registration fee, eligible counties must have also developed a bridge improvement plan which illustrates infrastructure work on more than one bridge. The County developed its CIP in 2009,

which details replacement and preservation plans for all 28 bridges in its inventory. With respect to other bridges in the CIP, efforts continue to ensure the County receives its ongoing fair share of all federal and state funds as appropriate.

“The Bundling Program will allow Cumberland County to receive additional state funding and accelerate its efforts to complete more bridge infrastructure projects and free up cash flow for other projects,” said Kirk Stoner, director of the County’s Planning Department.

For more information on Cumberland County’s Bridge Improvement Plan, visit <https://www.ccpa.net/4239/Bridge-Capital-Improvement-Program>.

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