



Cumberland County Planning Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Future of Bishop Bridge

Cumberland County, Pa. – Cumberland and York County officials will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Upper Allen Township Building, 100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss future plans for Bishop Bridge, in light of a new emergency access road agreement approved between the Counties and Messiah College. A brief presentation will be made at 7 p.m., followed by a question and answer session with personnel from both counties.

Bishop Bridge is a 119-year old single lane, steel truss bridge that carries Bishop Road over the Yellow Breeches Creek in Upper Allen Township in Cumberland County, to Monaghan Township in York County. The bridge is co-owned by Cumberland and York Counties and carries an estimated 150 vehicles per day. In 2014, the Counties solicited public input on long-term plans for the bridge, noting that replacing Bishop Bridge was not likely given its low traffic volumes, high cost and the recent replacement of Gilbert Bridge, which is half a mile to the west. Residents expressed concerns about access to their properties and emergency response time if Bishop Bridge is permanently closed and Gilbert Road is concurrently flooded.

Cumberland County and York County recently negotiated an agreement with Messiah College to construct an emergency access road through their campus. The road would ensure residents have access to their property and accelerate emergency response if Bishop Bridge is closed in the future and a flooding event occurs.

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