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PRESS RELEASE

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Cumberland County to Close Kunkle Bridge

Kunkle Bridge to close Wednesday, Nov. 20 until spring 2021

Carlisle, PA – Cumberland County today announced that Kunkle Bridge on Petersburg Road in South Middleton Township will close the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 20 until construction of a new bridge is completed in spring of 2021.

An annual inspection of the 117 year old single lane bridge revealed structural deficiencies that would require repair, and the weight posting would need to be reduced to just 3 tons for the bridge to remain open to traffic.

“We are closing the bridge to protect public safety and avoid ongoing deterioration, especially from overweight vehicles that are illegally traversing the bridge by not abiding by the weight restrictions,” said Kirk Stoner, director of planning. “The bridge was originally slated to close in spring of 2020 when construction of the new bridge would begin.”

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 replacement project is part of Cumberland County’s Bridge Capital Improvement Plan that includes over \$40 million worth of replacement or repairs on the county’s stock of 28 bridges. The primary funding source is the \$5 per vehicle registration fee that the county approved in 2015.

These fees generate approximately \$1.1 million a year and allow the county to address critical bridge needs without increasing property taxes. The funds generated from the potential 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 [bridge map tool](#).

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the state, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.