

JOINT COUNTY BRIDGE MEETING MINUTES

9/15/20

YORK COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 257

A joint county bridge meeting was held with the Cumberland County Commissioners and the York County Commissioners which was held at the York County Administrative Center, 28 E. Market Street, 2nd Floor, York, PA, 17401.

Present at the meeting: Cumberland County Chairman, Gary Eichelberger, Cumberland County Vice Chairman, Jean Foschi, Cumberland County Commissioner and Secretary, Vince DiFilippo, President Commissioner Julie Wheeler, Vice President Commissioner Doug Hoke, Commissioner Ron Smith, Deputy Chief Clerk for Cumberland County Stacy Snyder, Chief Clerk/Administrator for York County Mark Derr, York County Solicitor Michéle Pokrifka, Cumberland and York County Bridge Engineer, Brian Emberg, HRG, Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning Commission, Heather Bitner, York County Planning Commission.

Commissioner Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Eichelberger thanked York County for hosting the meeting.

President Commissioner Wheeler, welcomed the Cumberland County Commissioners.

Presentation of Sheepford Road Bridge Closure and Removal Study. Brian Emberg of HRG, bridge engineers for both Cumberland and York Counties, provided a detailed review of the Closure and Removal Study. The engineer reviewed that the bridge has been closed to traffic, that the structure was deemed deficient based upon one or more members deficient in carrying loads. It was deemed functionally obsolete, as it is a single lane width and lacks a guide rail system. It was deemed fracture critical, which means it could fail suddenly and catastrophically. It will require \$3.7 million to replace it, and \$1.3 million for rehabilitation only. The study considered whether it is necessary for the accommodation of public travel. In completing the study twenty-seven (27) closure factors were discovered. In preparation of the report HRG held discussions with necessary parties. HRG also formally addressed the concerns of the Friends of Sheepford Bridge (FOSB) in writing.

After review of the factors and the completion of the study HRG made a recommendation to the Joint Board of Commissioners that the bridge is no longer needed for the accommodation of public travel and should be permanently closed. HRG indicated if the Counties adopt their recommendation some expense related to closure to all traffic including pedestrian traffic would be required and the Counties can then take the time to determine what further action if any they would like to take related to the bridge.

HRG indicated that there was a PennDot preservation study conducted in 2017. This study was briefly discussed.

HRG then addressed comprehensively all of the issues raised in the FOSB written letter to the Commissioners.

Both Cumberland and York County Planning Commission representatives were present and commented on the closure study. Both planning commission representatives agreed with the recommendation of the engineers.

The meeting was then open for public comment.

Janice Lynx – Lower Allen Twp. FOSB. She commented on a pedestrian bridge and also indicated that the bridge was needed for emergency use. She also stated that she did not believe there was any emergency plan in place for the area should there be an emergency issue regarding the pipeline that is located in that area. (5:44)

Commissioner Foschi responded to the statement of Ms. Lynx regarding the pipeline issues. She further discussed the issues surrounding the ownership of bridges for pedestrian use and also pointed out based upon the study that rehabilitation of the bridge for the use of emergency vehicles will not result in retaining the bridge.

Commissioner Wheeler also commented the understanding that for emergency use this bridge would have to be removed and rebuilt.

Joan Lenker- Lower Allen Twp. FOSB- She discussed saving the current bridge. (10:50)

Don Paul Shearer- Lower Allen Twp. – He discussed attempting to save the current bridge. (2:00)

Lisa Essman- Fairview Twp.- She discussed saving the bridge. (Less than 2:00)

Michelle Goddard- Fairview Twp.- She discussed continued use of the bridge. (Less than 2:00)

Martha Klingensmith- Fairview Twp.- She discussed her support of rehabilitation of the bridge for traffic use. (Less than 2:00)

Erik Arneson- Thanked the Commissioners and is in support of retaining the bridge in some manner. Lower Allen Twp. (2:00)

Dino Sorbello- Discussed his support for the bridge. Lower Allen Twp. (Less than 2:00)

Commissioner DiFilippo had questions for the bridge engineer Mr. Embers regarding the options to close and barricade, and whether that would make it available for pedestrians. Further discussion was held regarding the idea and cost of “pick and placement” of the bridge to another location.

Commissioner Hoke raised the issue of whether Fairview Twp. and Lower Allen Twp. had a position about retaining or closing the bridge.

Discussion was held between the Commissioners which involved the Cumberland County Planning Commission representative, Kirk Stoner.

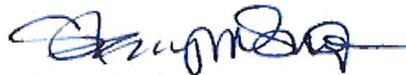
Motion to Adjourn was made by Commissioner DiFilippo.
Second- Chairman Eichelberger

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Derr,
Chief Clerk, York County



Stacy Snyder
Deputy Chief Clerk, Cumberland County

