



Cumberland County Planning Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRAIGHEAD BRIDGE & GREEN LANE FARM BRIDGE PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD TO CONSTRUCTION

Cumberland County, PA – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners awarded a \$2,980,930 contract to Kinsley Construction from York, PA on October 10th for the replacement of Craighead Bridge in South Middleton Township and the rehabilitation of Green Lane Farm Bridge in Lower Allen Township. Kinsley was the lowest of the six bidders that responded to the County's bid solicitation. Cumberland County will be responsible for approximately 5% of the total project costs of Craighead Bridge as federal and state funds will cover the remaining 95% of project costs. The Green Lane Farm Bridge traverses two counties in Lower Allen Township, Cumberland County and Fairview Township, York County and the costs for this bridge rehabilitation project will be shared with York County.

Built in 1899, Craighead Bridge carries Zion Road over the Yellow Breeches Creek and has been closed since July 18, 2013 when a routine inspection of the bridge revealed extensive structural deterioration. Since that time, Cumberland County has been conducting the engineering and design studies required for the bridge's replacement. Prior to its closure, the bridge carried over 2,000 vehicles per day. The new structure will be a modern 2-lane bridge and will be located just west of the current bridge.

Green Lane Farm Bridge carries Green Lane Drive over the Yellow Breeches Creek. Built in 1889, the one-lane, steel through truss bridge has an 8-ton load posting and carries nearly 3,000 vehicles per day. Cumberland County, in partnership with co-owner York County, will be making repairs to the bridge's abutments, floor beam hangers, stringers, stringer bearings, and top lateral bracings. The repairs along with routine maintenance will allow the bridge to continue carrying traffic at its current 8-ton posting for the next 25 years.

The Green Lane Farm rehabilitation project was required as historic resource impact mitigation as part of the Craighead Bridge project. Since Cumberland County was unable to find a new owner for Craighead Bridge, the existing bridge will be demolished when the new bridge is built. Federal regulations require the County to take action to mitigate the negative impacts of demolishing Craighead Bridge which was eligible for, but not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In response, the County in consultation with the project's consulting parties agreed to make repairs to the historical Green Lane Farm Bridge and maintain the structure for 25 years. The County's commitment to preserving and rehabilitating Green Lane Farm Bridge was memorialized through a memorandum of agreement signed by Cumberland County, the Federal Highway Administration and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Both projects are 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 stock 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.

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