

December 2024
Virtual Public Meeting Q and A Record
For the SR 1002 (Skinners Falls Road) over Delaware River,
Skinners Falls Bridge
Emergency Bridge Removal
Damascus Township, Wayne County, Pennsylvania
Town of Cohecton, Sullivan County, New York



Prepared For:



PennDOT Engineering District 4-0
NYSDOT Region 9

Prepared By:

AECOM

- From Cynthia Nash: How much money went to AECOM during this, and isn't that now a waste of money? Will there be an investigation into that?
- Anonymous: do you have an estimate of when the transcript of this discussion will be available to us?
- Anonymous: There are many thousands of "Hundred year old structures". They all require regular maintenance and can last much longer. Why was there no regular maintenance provided to prevent deterioration to this extent?
- Becker, Peter: Is it expected to be taken down before the new year, and will it be bid
- Anonymous: Why we wait for Dan, the bearing points can be moved through temporary bracing measures. Again this is lacking imagination.
- Anonymous: Thank you for your time. Push that gas pedal and take it down.
- Paul Sheehan: Transcript will be made available?
- Mark Casner: Sorry= which governor granted the Declaration of Emergency? Gov H from NY or Gov Shapiro from PA?
- Anonymous: Will you provide the engineering specifics for why emergency shoring is not an option? This happens all the time and it doesn't take 18 months - its emergency shoring - happens all the time. Fasten additional temporary supports and install cribbing. This action lacks all imagination and is indicative of more than 6 years of dragging out its demise.
- Mark Casner: the "Skinner's Falls Website" was mentioned in this meeting. Is the following Link the site that you refer to? <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pennDOT/projects-near-you/district-4-projects/skinners-falls-bridge-project.html>
- Paul Sheehan: Please note: the beauty of this areas includes this very bridge.
- Anonymous: All bridges deteriorate actively. This is predictable.
- Anonymous: How can PennDOT defend how valuable this location and bridge is? PennDOT neglected this bridge until it was called a public safety concern at a meeting. It began to fail since before it was closed. and penndot was aware of that. Metal pieces will be in the river forever that have fallen in due to neglect of the bridge.
Thank you for your time. I hope this dismantling happens efficiently and effectively.
- Statement from Cynthia Nash: Time does not account for the long term neglect of the bridge. One must question the agenda of PennDOT which created this crisis.
- Anonymous: To say that "the bridge is deteriorating by itself" is misleading at least. If left alone without adequate maintenance all structures, especially historic, especially bridges can be predicted to deteriorate. Is there no mandate to protect historic structures from deterioration?
- Paul Sheehan: Again, more complete illustrations and diagrams of any proposed actions are requested so we can be sure all alternatives have been explored. This is currently not transparent enough. I ask that you extend more respect and courtesy for your professional peers.
- From Cynthia Nash: Why were officials on the bridge this morning if it's too dangerous for anyone?
- From Jeff Dexter: You have over 20 years of inspection reports but have not acted on them?

- Anonymous: Why did it take so long to issue the bridge report and do something over the past 6n years you have known about the degrading of the bridge's condition?
- From Cynthia Nash - It is likely that advocates for the bridge will file legal action for an independent engineering report. Is this emergency declaration a response to that possibility?
- Anonymous: Have you explored a wider partial causeway to accommodate lowering both truss sections for disassembly?
- From Cynthia Nash: Full disclosure of the report would be transparent rather than a redacted copy.
- Paul Sheehan Has an emergency shoring and bracing plan been considered? This can be safely done over the winter months during the lowest river flow and will allow safe disassembly with all live loads removed from the truss. Most importantly, the feasibility of any alternative options can be better understood if they are better illustrated and diagrammed for public consumption. This presentation I am finding opaque.
- Anonymous: Will you be fully documenting all bridge elements and components prior to destruction?
- Anonymous: Will the bridge be demolished with the intent to salvage the original material as possible for the ultimate restoration? Is there still a historic preservation objective anticipated?
- From Cynthia Nash: Why not create a portage for river traffic? Should the business concerns that you've expressed determine the fate of the bridge?
- From DCS lawyer Lauren Williams: While we appreciate that PennDOT finally did provide some of the information that we asked for, it was only after repeated communications by DCS's attorney, and even then, we did not get the most recent bridge inspection report, which is 183 pages (and this is without one of the appendices, which PennDOT withholds under state law or something) until MONDAY, which is almost no time (it is no time) to get to an expert to review and digest, much less us read it and digest it. We asked in our email that material be POSTED ONLINE, not doled out to those who ask.
We also still have a lack of clarity on the NEPA issue, other than what one PennDOT attorney's understanding is.
Beyond that, "the draft Section 106 agreement, qualifications, bid package and information about measures to protect river traffic are not available" and originally, these were to be available before or shortly after the last meeting.
This is not a proper Section 106 process. The public and consulting parties MUST have sufficient information to make informed comments. That is not happening.
- Laurie Ramie: You had said that JIBC requires having 10 crossings over the Delaware and legislation would be needed to change that?
- Anonymous: How can "dropping" and dragging the PA section into the river be consistent with environmental and drinking water considerations?
- Laurie Ramie: Why hasn't the engineering report been made available to the public?
- Anonymous: How is blowing up and destroying the bridge consistent with the historic preservation requirements? Can you again explain why the sections can't be lowered to the causeway to be carefully disassembled and tagged per the prior meeting?

- Laurie Ramie: It was stated that the Outstandingly Remarkable Values that this bridge holds can not be mitigated. How will that occur?
- Anonymous: Can they dismantale bridge same way they did in Pond Eddy NY.
- Anonymous: Where were the inspectors for the past 5 years? How is it, that just now it is being declared emergency?
If PennDot took a proactive approach over the past 5 years, we would not be in this "Emergency state". The pieces of metal falling in our river could have been prevented, and public safety concern avoided.
- Anonymous: HELLO
PLEASE FIX AUDIO
FIX THE AUDIO PLEASE
REVERBERATION ROMAN
BOTH OF YOU ARE
HELP STOP THE REVEBERATION
{Attendee was having an audio issue and thought that all participants were having the same problem.}
- Keyleigh Kern, technical moderator: I understand that some may be having an audio issue - it does not seem to be happening for all members of the audience, if you are hearing a reverb I suggest you log out and log back in.