



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2019

Route 26 Bridge Replacement Begins March 19 in Centre County

Bellefonte, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is alerting area drivers that preliminary work on a bridge replacement in Marion Township is scheduled to start Tuesday, March 19. The bridge spans Lick Run on Route 26, about 1 ½ miles south of Howard Borough. Replacing the bridge will allow PennDOT to remove it from Centre County's list of bridges in poor condition. Work had previously been announced to start March 5 but was pushed back due to weather.

Initial work will feature placement of temporary signals next week. The signals will be in flash mode starting March 19 and will be fully operational March 26. The signals will control traffic in an alternating pattern. Preliminary work will also include clearing and grubbing.

While traffic alternates across the existing bridge, replacement work will be done in half width phasing. The first half of the new bridge will be constructed next to the existing bridge and the existing roadway will be realigned. Once complete, traffic will be switched to the new half so that the remainder of the old bridge can be replaced.

The overall project will replace the existing concrete arch bridge with a new concrete box beam bridge. PennDOT expects to open the new bridge to traffic by November. Ryland Construction, Inc. of Lewisberry, PA is the contractor for this \$1.2 million project.

The existing 45-foot structure was constructed in 1925 and carries an average of nearly 2,200 vehicles each day. The bridge is currently weight-limit posted at 36-ton for single vehicles and 40-ton for combination vehicles. Replacing the bridge will eliminate those postings.

Project work will include the removal of the current structure, construction of a new concrete box beam bridge, drainage and pavement improvements, and guide rail installation. All work is weather and schedule dependent.

Drivers are reminded to use caution in and around work zones, obey posted speed limits, and always buckle up.

Motorists are encouraged to "Know Before They Go" by checking conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 860 traffic cameras. Users can also see plow truck statuses and travel alerts along a specific route using the "Check My Route" tool.

511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

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For regional updates on Twitter, follow www.twitter.com/511PAStateCOLL

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