



## COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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Vince DiFilippo  
*Chairman*

Jim Hertzler  
*Vice Chairman*

Gary Eichelberger  
*Secretary*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Craighead Bridge Ownership Officially Turned Over***

**Cumberland County, Pa.** – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, along with various other dignitaries, joined together today to officially turn over ownership of the original Craighead Bridge to Workin’ Bridges.

“The County worked diligently to find a solution to provide safe transportation for our citizens and preserve our history,” said Vince DiFilippo, chairman of the Board of Commissioners. “Through the work of our Planning Department and partnerships with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and South Middleton Township, we are fortunate to be able to preserve this more than 100 year old bridge, instead of seeing it demolished.”

“The old Craighead Bridge was in no condition to safely allow vehicle use,” said Commissioner Jim Hertzler. “We now have a new, safe replacement bridge for traffic just to the west. And thanks to the folks at Workin’ Bridges, instead of being disassembled and torn down, the original and historic Craighead Bridge is being preserved for generations to come.”

“The commitment of Workin’ Bridges to preserve and restore historical bridges across the nation is commendable,” said Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. “Julie Bowers and her team have shown through many past projects a dedication and commitment to preserving historical bridges. We are pleased we were able to partner with them as a means of preserving the historic Craighead Bridge.”

(MORE)

In addition to the Commissioners, comments were provided by Michael Keiser, District Executive, PennDOT District 8; Tyra Guyton, Historic Metal Truss Marketing Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office; Tom Faley, Supervisor, South Middleton Township; and Tom Benjey, Craighead House.

Craighead Bridge is a steel truss bridge that was built in 1899. It was closed in July of 2013 after it was found to be substantially deteriorated. Instead of being demolished, North Skunk River Greenbelt Association, which conducts business as Workin' Bridges, from Iowa, purchased the original bridge for \$1 in May. They plan to leave it in place while raising funds for necessary improvements and eventually reopening the bridge for pedestrian and recreational use.

A new, modern two-lane bridge replaced the original bridge and was opened earlier this month. The nearly \$2.6 million replacement bridge was constructed just west of the original. The County was responsible for approximately 5% of the total project cost; the remaining 95% was paid for using federal and state funds. The new bridge is expected to carry at least 2,000 vehicles per day on Zion Road across the Yellow Breeches Creek.

The Craighead Bridge replacement project was part of the County's Bridge Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP includes repair or replacement projects to the entire stock of the 28 county-owned bridges. The primary funding source for the plan is the \$5 per vehicle registration fee 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 six years would need to be enacted.

For more information about the County's Bridge Capital Improvement Plan, visit [www.ccpa.net/4239/Bridge-Capital-Improvement-Program](http://www.ccpa.net/4239/Bridge-Capital-Improvement-Program). To see a photo gallery of the original and new Craighead Bridges, visit [www.ccpa.net/4500/Bridge-Improvement-Photo-Gallery](http://www.ccpa.net/4500/Bridge-Improvement-Photo-Gallery).

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