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PRESS RELEASE

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Cumberland County's Wolf Bridge Preconstruction Work Nears Completion

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Commissioners today announced that preconstruction work for the replacement of the Wolf Bridge in Middlesex Township is nearing completion. The county has secured necessary utility approvals, acquired right-of-way and submitted final bridge engineering plans for PennDOT's review. The county intends to bid the construction contract this fall and have the new bridge open to traffic in the fall of 2020.

“There have been many complexities which have led to the long engineering time frame,” said Kirk Stoner, Cumberland County Planning Director. “The Wolf Bridge project has truly been a challenge to deliver with impacts to historic and natural resources and changes in funding formulas.”

“Our residents have been extremely patient during this long, and at times, frustrating process,” said County Commissioner Vince DiFilippo. “We are patiently working with our partners at the state and federal levels and look forward to bidding this project later this year. The final completion date still remains the fall of 2020.”

Wolf Bridge closed in September 2013 when an annual inspection revealed extensive deterioration. The county has been working with PennDOT, the Pennsylvania State Historic and Museum Commission, and the Federal Highway Administration to develop plans for the bridge's replacement. The estimated \$3 million construction cost will be entirely funded by federal funds.

The 192 foot long steel truss bridge, constructed in 1895, had a 10-ton weight limit and carried an estimated 2,000 vehicles per day over the Conodoguinet Creek, prior to its closing.

The Wolf Bridge project is part of Cumberland County's Bridge Capital Improvement Plan that includes more than \$30 million of bridge replacement or repair projects on all 28 county-owned bridges. The primary funding source comes from the county approved \$5 per vehicle registration fee. Since 2015, the fee has generated approximately \$1.1 million a year allowing the county to address critical bridge needs.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the state, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.