

ROUTE 19 BRIDGE PROJECT, SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, MERCER CO.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the project is to replace the bridge that carries Route 19 (Perry Highway) over Johnston Run (also known as Hunters Run) in Springfield Township, Mercer County. The bridge is located adjacent to Rachel's Roadhouse and just north of Johnston's Tavern, a National Register-listed property and Section 4(f) resource, which most recently housed The Nuthouse Antiques and Primitives

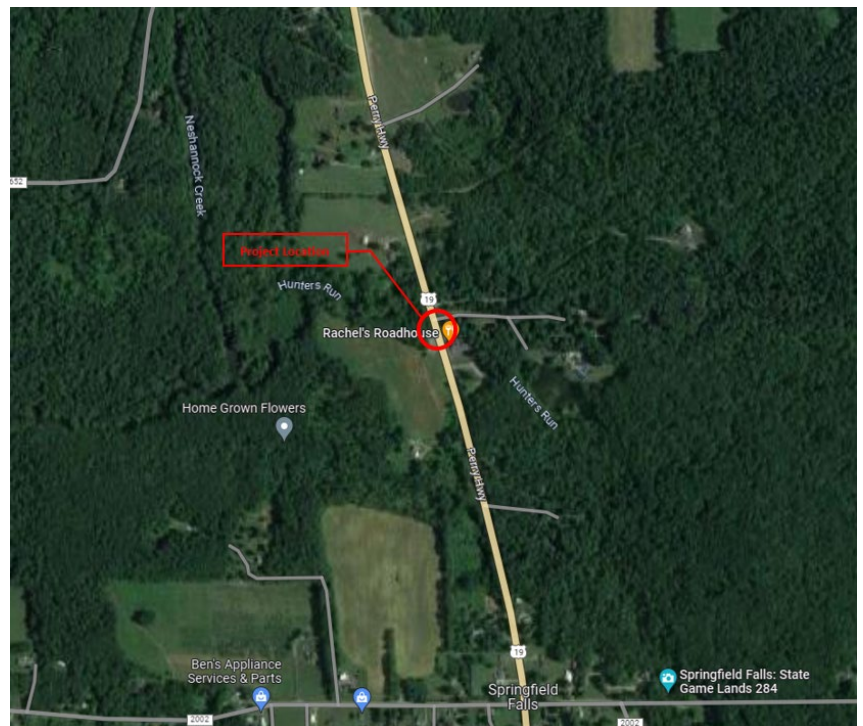
The project will include replacing the existing steel beam superstructure with new prestressed concrete spread box beams. New integral abutments will be constructed, and the existing abutments will be cut down with a portion to remain in place. The bridge will be 6 feet narrower than the current bridge and will match the width of the roadway – two 11-foot lanes and two 5-foot shoulders. Work will also include new roadway approaches and updated guiderail and pavement markings.

Temporary right-of-way takes will be required on both sides of the structure for construction.

The existing bridge was constructed in 1928 and is currently rated in poor condition. Approximately 3,000 vehicles use the bridge daily, of which an average of 14% is truck traffic.

PROJECT AREA

The bridge is located on Route 19 (Perry Highway) over Johnston Run (also known as Hunters Run), at the northern end of the parking lot to Rachel's Roadhouse



View Route 19 Bridge Replacement Project plans and complete the online comment at www.penndot.pa.gov/District1.

ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION

Work is expected to occur during the 2024 or 2025 construction season with bridge construction occurring for five to six months and a total project duration of nine months take approximately nine months.

SECTION 4(F)

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 protects historic resources, parks and other resources from conversion to transportation use.

This project will result in a Temporary Occupancy under Section 4(f). FHWA regulations (23 CFR § 774.13(d)) specifically state that if all the following conditions are met, that such a temporary occupancy is an exception to the requirements of Section 4(f):

- The duration of the use is temporary (i.e., less than the construction period) and there is no change in the ownership of the land;
- The scope of the work is minor, i.e. both the nature and the magnitude of the changes to the Section 4(f) property are minimal;
- There are no permanent, adverse physical impacts anticipated and no interference with the protected activities, features, or attributes of the property on either a temporary or permanent basis;
- The land being used is fully restored to a condition equal to or better than that which existed prior to the project;
- There is a written agreement with the appropriate federal, state, or local official(s) with jurisdiction over the property regarding the conditions listed above. (For historic and archaeological sites, written agreement would come from the SHPO).

This project was coordinated with Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and it was determined it will result in a No Adverse Effect under Section 106. Work, as proposed, will have the following impacts on the Johnston's Tavern property:

- During construction, traffic control signs and devices may be placed on the shoulder of Route 19 in front of the historic stone inn.
- As the approach is paved, the driveway to the historic stone inn will have a minor drive adjustment to match the new roadway grade. This will be limited to gravel within last 15 feet of the driveway to create a smooth transition from driveway to road shoulder.

These impacts will be temporary and disturbed areas will be restored once the project is complete. In addition, access to the property will be maintained throughout the entirety of construction.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS

Vehicular traffic will be maintained by using half-width construction of the new bridge. A temporary traffic signal will be used to maintain a single 12' minimum lane during construction.

No detour of traffic is anticipated.

Access to Rachel's Roadhouse and the Johnston's Tavern property will be maintained throughout the entirety of construction.

CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

The project construction funds are 100% state funded for a preliminary estimated total of \$2,900,000.

CURRENT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The purpose of the public comment period is to introduce the project and receive input regarding any questions or concerns with the project and/or impacts to the Section 4(f) resource.

The current comment period will remain open through August 18, 2023. Comments and questions can be submitted to PennDOT Project Manager Chris Boyer-Krantz at chboyer@pa.gov, 814-678-7379, or 255 Elm Street, Oil City, PA 16301. An online comment form for the Route 19 Bridge Replacement Project is also available at www.penndot.pa.gov/District1.