

Renfrew Bridge Replacement & Meridian Road Closure

Purpose: The PennDOT, Trans Associates, and Penn Township representatives met at 9:30 am on June 14, 2023, at the PennDOT District 10 office, 351 New Castle Road, Butler, PA 16003 for the Meridian Road reconstruction, the Renfrew Bridge replacement, the Penn Township Route 8 at Airport Road traffic light replacement, and the Route 8 McBride Hill pavement resurfacing schedule.

Attending:

- Bert Mowry – Penn Township, Supervisor
- Brent Piccola – PennDOT Assistant Manager
- Cliff Eich – Trans Associates, Principal Traffic Design Services
- Dan Tyger – PennDOT District 10 Traffic Operations Manager
- Doug Roth – Penn Township, Supervisor
- Kirk Schrecengost – PennDOT District Traffic Engineer
- Linda Zerfoss – Penn Township, Manager
- Mike Mattis – PennDOT District 10 Maintenance Manager
- Sam Ward – Penn Township, Supervisor

Distribution of minutes:

- Attending
- Aaron Wozniak – PennDOT District 10
- Bill Glace - Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Charles May - Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Cheryl Cranmer, Jack Ripper, Dennis Crawford, and Jeremy Walters - Penn Township Police Officers
- Chris Reese, Esq. – Penn Township Solicitor
- Chris Setree – PennDOT District 10
- Clinton Bonetti – Penn Township Land Use Administrator
- Cory Schaffer - PennDOT District 10 Municipal Specialist
- Dan Wible – Penn Township, Public Works Foremen
- Domenic D'Andrea – SPC Director
- James Kaufman – Penn Township Emergency Management Coordinator
- Judy Bishop – Trans Associates Senior Engineer
- Kimberly Geyer – Butler County Commissioner
- Mark Gordon – Butler County Chief of Economic Planning & Development
- Russ Rossi – PennDOT District 10 Highway Design Supervisor
- Troy Adamosky - PennDOT District 10
- Wendy Banfield - PennDOT District 10 Traffic Control Specialist

Discussion:

- PennDOT update on the Meridian Road closure:
 - PennDOT is seeking project funding, continuing the project design, and continuing to monitor the slide. No additional earth movement has been observed.
- PennDOT update on the replacement of the Renfrew bridge with a two-lane bridge in 2025:
 - No update.
- The emergency plan for Renfrew residents in the event the Renfrew bridge is closed as a result of Thorn Creek flooding or an accident at the bridge is as follows: (no update, the current plan remains in effect)
 - Notify all Renfrew residents, PennDOT, and Butler County Emergency Management of this written emergency plan.
 - PennDOT will not start construction of the new bridge until Meridian Road is fully open.
 - PennDOT will maintain one lane of traffic controlled by using stop signs at both ends of the slide area.
 - PennDOT will also make provisions during the Meridian Road reconstruction to allow emergency vehicle access to Renfrew and allow residents to exit and reenter Renfrew in the event there is an issue that closes the Renfrew bridge.
 - PennDOT, Emergency Management officials, and Renfrew residents will monitor conditions in the event stormwater begins to rise on Thorn Creek and will implement necessary emergency precautions. Renfrew residents will move their vehicles to higher ground (above the railroad tracks) and take precautions at their homes.
- Trans Associates is ready to submit the Penn Township Route 8 at Airport Road traffic light replacement documents for PennDOT review. PennDOT will assist Penn Township to access the PennDOT ECMS. This system requires frequent password resets. Once this is complete, Penn Township will grant access to Trans Associates to formally submit the new traffic light documents.
- Trans Associates has previously submitted these documents by email and PennDOT confirmed that the included ADA provisions were acceptable.
- PennDOT representative, Dan Tyger, will contact PennDOT representative, Steve Gault to ask when the ARLE grant formal agreement with Penn Township will be available.
- Trans Associates representative, Cliff Eich, stated that the necessary ROW easement descriptions will be forwarded to Penn Township the week of June 19, 2023. The Penn Township Solicitor will prepare the formal agreements and the Penn Township representatives will obtain the executed agreements and forward copies to PennDOT and Trans Associates for their records. Dan Tyger will approve these agreements once they are available.
- PennDOT contractor, Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. will begin the Route 8 McBride Hill pavement resurfacing in the immediate future. The work will be performed between 8:00 pm and 6:00 am for approximately two weeks. A minimum of one lane of traffic will remain open in each direction during this construction. Resurfacing of the Route 8 section from Larchwood Drive through the Airport Road intersection may occur in the next three to four years.
- Penn Township stated that it intends to install a new traffic light at the intersection of Route 8, Brownsdale, and Church Roads in the future. This work can not be initiated until grant funding and other infrastructure revenues are available. Penn Township currently has the Route 8 at Airport Road traffic light replacement, Harcrest Park Phase II development, and the stormwater remediation project at Dodds and Dinnerbell Roads in progress. Once these projects are completed and appropriate funding is secured, then Penn Township will then initiate

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- the project. A traffic study is required to determine if a traffic light is warranted. In the event a traffic light is warranted, then Penn Township must submit a letter of financial responsibility for the traffic light costs to PennDOT.
- Dan Tyger advised that new traffic signals are not applicable for the Green-Light-Go grants and that ARLE grants are very competitive. Dan Tyger suggested that Penn Township approach the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) representative, Domenic D'Andrea, for help in obtaining a grant for this project.
 - In the interim, Dan Tyger suggested that other traffic calming efforts be considered such as additional signage and line painting. Trans Associates could conduct a study and make traffic calming recommendations. Penn Township will consider authorizing this study. PennDOT agreed to upgrade signage on the PA State Route 8 and Brownsdale Road. Penn Township will provide the signage on Church Road.
 - Penn Township representative, Doug Roth, stated that a new owner of the Mandell Trails, a mobile home park, with access to Route 8 by Church Road and Port-O-Call Boulevard, is replacing approximately ten existing, abandoned mobile homes with new mobile homes.
 - Penn Township representative, Sam Ward, stated that Penn, Middlesex, and Forward Townships have started or are planning substantial residential development which will impact Route 8 at Brownsdale and Church Roads intersection as well as other Penn Township intersections.
 - Dan Tyger suggested that Penn Township reaches out to PennDOT to review and make traffic recommendations for these developments.
 - PennDOT representative, Kirk Schrecengost recommended that Penn Township work with Middlesex and Forward Townships for their traffic planning. Kirk Schrecengost also recommended that PennCONNECTS be contacted for traffic planning. PennDOT representative, Mike Mattis, stated that PennDOT recently met with Middlesex and Adams Township officials for traffic coordination.
 - Sam Ward stated that Penn Township is currently working on a stormwater remediation project at the intersection of Dodds Road and Rockdale Roads. Rockdale is a PA State Road. Penn Township will include PennDOT as the design work continues.
 - Kirk Schrecengost summarized actions as follows:
 - Penn Township and Trans Associates – submit the traffic light documents for review on ECMS and prepare ROW easements.
 - PennDOT – contact Steve Gault for the traffic light grant agreement.
 - PennDOT – issue signal permit.
 - Penn Township – consider traffic calming measures for the Route 8 at Brownsdale Road intersection. PennDOT will have Adam Marshall recommend potential traffic calming recommendations.
 - Penn Township – contact SPC for an additional traffic signal grant.
 - Penn Township – communications with Middlesex and Forward Townships concerning the impact of new residential developments.
 - Penn Township – contact PennDOT representative, Cory Schaffer, concerning traffic improvements.
 - Sam Ward asked about the "All Red" signal phase for the new Route 8 at the Airport Road traffic light. PennDOT representative, Steve Gault, will review the new traffic light effect before approving the traffic light "All Red" signal phase. In the interim, the new traffic light radar will sense on-coming traffic and will automatically extend the "Green" phase in the event a vehicle will not be stopping in time. If approved, this will be the first intersection in PennDOT District 10 that will have the "All Red" signal phase.
 - Dan Tyger stated that drivers will learn the new traffic signal timing and will adjust their driving accordingly.
 - Dan Tyger stated that the new left turn signals from Route 8 will have a two-second delay between going from the green arrow, then red stop light, before beginning the flashing yellow arrow phase. Dan Tyger stated that the public has recognized the advantages of the flashing yellow turning arrows and is now requesting this feature for left turn signals.
 - Dan Tyger recommended that participants review the www.pennidot.pa.gov website links as follows: [Traffic Signal Portal](#), [Traffic Signal Asset Management System \(TSAMS\)](#), and [Temporary Traffic Control Portal](#).
 - The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2023, at 9:30 am in the Penn Township Municipal Building meeting room.
 - The meeting concluded at 10:45 pm.
 - Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Penn Township website, www.penntownship.org under Documents.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel M. Ward, Supervisor