

# Renfrew Bridge Replacement & Meridian Road Closure Meeting Minutes

**Purpose:** The PennDOT and Penn Township representatives met at 11:30 a.m. on January 3, 2024, at the Penn Township Municipal Building, 157 East Airport, Butler, PA 16002 for the Meridian Road reconstruction.

## Attending:

- Adam Marshall – PennDOT, Assistant Traffic Engineer – Safety
- Andraya Gealey – Penn Township, Tax Collector
- Bert Mowry – Penn Township, Supervisor
- Bill Glace - Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Brent Piccola – PennDOT District 10 Maintenance, Assistant Manager
- Cheryl Cranmer - Penn Township Police Officers
- Clinton Bonetti – Penn Township Land Use Administrator
- Dave Layman – PennDOT, Sr. Project Manager
- Doug Roth – Penn Township, Supervisor
- James Kaufman – Penn Township Emergency Management Coordinator
- Kevin Pollino – PennDOT, ROW Administration
- Linda Zerfoss – Penn Township, Manager
- Russ Rossi – PennDOT District 10, Highway Design Supervisor
- Sam Ward – Penn Township, Supervisor
- Tina Gibbs – PennDOT, Press Officer

## Distribution of minutes:

- Attending
- Aaron Bernstine – PA State Representative
- Charles May - Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Cory Schaffer - PennDOT District 10 Municipal Specialist
- Dan Tyger – PennDOT District 10 Traffic Operations Manager
- Dan Wible – Penn Township, Public Works Foremen
- Dennis Crawford - Penn Township Police Officer
- Jeremy Walters - Penn Township Police Officer
- Justin Leventry – PA Senator Hutchinson, Chief of Staff
- Kimberly Geyer – Butler County Commissioner
- Kirk Schrecengost – PennDOT District Traffic Engineer
- Korey Zarnick - Penn Township Police Officer
- Mark Gordon – Butler County Chief of Economic Planning & Development
- Mike Mattis – PennDOT District 10 Maintenance, Manager

## Discussion:

- PennDOT update on the Meridian Road closure:
  - PennDOT representative, Russ Rossi, stated that the Meridian Road reconstruction project funding has been secured, the project's preliminary design is complete, and PennDOT has continued to monitor the earth slide. The project will go out for bid on February 1, 2024, and is expected to be awarded by February 15, 2024.
  - Russ Rossi, reviewed the preliminary reconstruction plans and sections. The project includes a substantial quantity of rock excavation which will be hauled off the site. The existing Renfrew Bridge will not be used by these heavy trucks.
  - Russ Rossi advised that the proposed reconstruction schedule will be completed in April and May 2024. The project is to be completed in 36-12-hour days (Monday through Friday).
  - Russ Rossi reviewed the proposed alternate detour map. The detour is 22.4 miles long for larger, heavy vehicles considering height and weight restrictions. The two US Post Office vehicles will use the Renfrew Bridge to access their routes for mail delivery.
  - Russ Rossi advised that the reconstruction grading and stormwater drainage will help prevent future erosion and earth slides in the affected area.
- The revised Emergency plan for Renfrew residents in the event the Renfrew bridge is closed because of Thorn Creek flooding or an accident at the bridge is as follows:
  - 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. This will occur only before the detour is in place. During Construction, vehicles will not be permitted through the construction site unless there is an unforeseen event closing the other access into Renfrew. The temporary access through the reconstruction area may be unpaved.
  - The Contractor will not be on-site every day however, the reconstruction area will be made passable within the provisions of the incident management plan in the event of an emergency.
  - 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.
- This current plan will be updated by the PennDOT Contractor's Incident Management Plan (IMP) which will facilitate providing emergency temporary access to Renfrew in an unforeseen event that adversely affects other access considering the following:
  - The PennDOT Contractor will coordinate the IMP with Penn Township emergency services representatives and other stakeholders requiring access. PennDOT will provide an approved copy of the IMP to Penn Township.
  - Specification Section 9000-0910 DOLLA Incident Management Plan:
    - Prepare a formal/final Incident Management Plan (IMP) for submittal at the pre-construction conference. The Incident Management Plan (IMP) shall accommodate access through the construction site in the event that unforeseen circumstances due to natural other causes that prevent vehicles from accessing the town of Renfrew via the existing structure over Connoquenessing Creek occurs. Said access shall be provided by the relocation and/or staging of construction equipment and the grading/plating/providing of an emergency temporary through-way considered acceptable in terms of safety and accessibility and shall be deemed traversable by the inspector-in-charge and the Department Traffic Safety Unit. The implementation of the IMP shall be able to be executed at all times. The monitoring of National Weather Service (NWS) Forecasts and Special Weather Statements shall be part of the IMP so that preemption of implementation can be accommodated. Implementation of the IMP shall happen as soon as viable, however, not to exceed a time limit of 1 hour after the unforeseen event restricting access to Renfrew occurs. The preparation, submittal, approval, implementation, updating, and completion of the IMP including the contact list is considered incidental to Item 0901-0001 and no additional payment will be made.

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- PennDOT advised that the Contractor will not be on-site every day however, the reconstruction area will be made passable within the provisions of the incident management plan in the event of an emergency.
- Penn Township will monitor the elevation of Thorn Creek and alert the Contractor in the event of pending flooding.
- **The Project's Contractor will schedule a meeting with PennDOT and Penn Township emergency management representatives.\***
- Penn Township Supervisor, Doug Roth, questioned the possibility of a train derailment affecting Meridian Road in Renfrew. It was agreed that the IMP would be implanted in the event of a train derailment.
- PennDOT representative, Kevin Pollino, advised that four ROW acquisition agreements with property owners are required. These agreements will be executed after reconstruction is complete. The Penn Township Tax Collector, Andraya Gealey, provided some property contact information to assist the ROW acquisition.
- PennDOT stated that the replacement of the existing Renfrew bridge with a two-lane bridge will be started in late 2025 and completed in 2026.
- Penn Township Manager, Linda Zerfoss, questioned the proposed alignment of the new bridge. PennDOT advised that the proposed alignment has not yet been determined and that a future public meeting will be held to review the proposed bridge replacement plans.
- Penn Township Police Sargent Cranmer, asked if power and gas lines would be relocated during the reconstruction period. PennDOT advised that some exploratory work will be performed the week of January 8, 2024, to determine whether the gas line is to be relocated. Some traffic disruption is anticipated. Sargent Cranmer will notify the Butler County 911 service.
- PennDOT representative, Tina Gibbs, stated that a press release for the project will be issued in the immediate future.
- Penn Township will award the contract for replacing the traffic lights at Route 8 and Airport Road on January 9, 2024. This new light is expected to be in operation by late Summer 2024.
- The next meeting will be held on (to be scheduled), in the Penn Township Municipal Building meeting room.
- The meeting concluded at 12:15 p.m.
- Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Penn Township website, [www.penntownship.org](http://www.penntownship.org) under Documents.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel M. Ward, Supervisor