

I support the rehabilitation rather than the replacement of the historic Headquarters Road Bridge over the Tinicum Creek in Tinicum Township, Bucks County.

The Headquarters Road Bridge is a contributing structure in the Ridge Valley Historic District and the federally designated Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River. The bridge crosses the Tinicum Creek, a stream designated as having exceptional value by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The Tinicum is also a tributary of the Delaware River.

I oppose the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's proposed replacement plan because it will threaten the federal designation for the region and will lead to a degradation of water quality in the Tinicum Creek. Replacement construction will also lead to a longer closure of Headquarters Road compared to repairing the current structure. Building a new bridge will also be more expensive.

A new, two lane structure proposed by PADOT will also lead to an increase in vehicle speeds on Headquarters Road and increased traffic in the area. The current single lane bridge is consistent with the rural character of the region.

I call on PADOT to develop plans to repair the current structure.