



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Contact:**

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215-369-1188 x 102

**Headquarters Road Bridge Replacement Project Pushed Back Until 2022**

**Tinicum Township, PA** – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has pushed back planned action on the closed Headquarters Road Bridge until 2022. Planned funding for the project has been shifted in the most recent Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from fiscal years 2020 and 2021 until 2022, thus guaranteeing that the bridge will remain closed and unusable for at least 4 more years.

“The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the community have been urging that PennDOT invest in rehabilitating this 200 year old historic bridge, one of its only kind left in the nation. PennDOT’s failure to act will allow the bridge to continue to degrade, and will deny the community a needed transportation route. It also means that PennDOT is not even considering the option of constructing a temporary bridge which would provide the community transportation relief while the future of the bridge continues to be debated,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has been an outspoken critic of how PennDOT has been handling needed rehabilitation of the Headquarters Road bridge as well as other bridges in its jurisdiction.

The TIP takes away over a combined \$1 million dollars in funding from the Headquarters Road Bridge project in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to balance the budget. The plan transfers the money back to the project in fiscal year 2022, leaving residents without relief for another four years. The TIP is required by federal law and is completed in conjunction with PennDOT and other agencies. The DVRPC Board adopted the TIP at their June 28 meeting.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) has been urging PennDOT to restore and rehabilitate the historic Headquarters Road Bridge, which has been closed since 2011. DRN held an event in May where experts showed how a temporary bridge could be erected in a short period of time, providing residents with a temporary solution while the historic structure is repaired. View a video of the May event at <http://bit.ly/HQbridgevideo>.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK  
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701  
Bristol, PA 19007  
Office: (215) 369-1188  
fax: (215) 369-1181  
drm@delawareriverkeeper.org  
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

PennDOT continues to advocate for its plan to demolish the bridge, built in 1812, and replace it with a larger two-lane structure, despite the proven ability of the historic bridge to safely handle all traffic on the local road. The bridge is a contributing element to the Ridge Valley Rural Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. DRN and experts believe the loss of the historic resource and the environmental impacts on the Exceptional Value, Wild & Scenic, Tincum Creek will have irreparable impacts on the creek, community and region, and that PennDOT is pursuing their proposal in a way that violates the National Environmental Protection Act as well as historic preservation and environmental protection laws. DRN supports rehabilitation of the bridge to preserve the area's natural and historic resources, with a temporary structure being a step towards rehabilitating and re-opening the bridge.

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*Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.*