

I-78 LENHARTSVILLE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Environmental Assessment – Notice of Availability for Review and Comment

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have issued this Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the I-78 Lenhartsville Bridge Replacement Project in Berks County. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the EA during a public comment period **beginning at noon on May 4, 2022, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on June 3, 2022**. Formal public testimony will be received during an in-person Public Hearing scheduled for May 19, 2022. Comments can also be provided through other methods listed below.

Copies of the EA are available for review online at www.penndot.pa.gov/i78Lenhartsville and at the following locations:

Hamburg Public Library

35 N 3rd St.
Hamburg, 19526

Kutztown Community Library

70 Bieber Alley
Kutztown, 19530

Greenwich Township

775 Old Route 22
Lenhartsville, 19534

PennDOT District 5 Office

1002 Hamilton St.
Allentown, PA 18101

FHWA Pa. Division

228 Walnut St., Room 508
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Additional project information is available online at www.penndot.pa.gov/i78Lenhartsville and will be presented at the in-person **Public Hearing scheduled for 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 19, 2022 at Kempton Community Center, 83 Community Center Dr, Kempton, PA 19529**. An open house display on the project will begin at 3:30 p.m. with public testimony starting at 4:30 p.m.

The public has numerous options to provide comments on the EA between now and June 3, 2022:

- Testimony will be received at the in-person hearings before an audience with a stenographer. Those providing testimony are asked to register in advance at www.penndot.pa.gov/i78Lenhartsville or by calling 610-973-5193. Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes per participant and the number of slots will depend on available time.
- Individuals may provide testimony privately in a separate hearing room with a stenographer.
- Written comments may be brought to the in-person hearing, completed at the event and deposited in a comment box, or mailed to: PennDOT District 5, Attn: I-78 Lenhartsville Bridge Replacement Project, 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101.
- Comments may be emailed to i78Lenhartsville@pa.gov.
- The public may provide comments through the form available online at www.penndot.pa.gov/i78Lenhartsville.
- Comment forms will be provided at the in-person Public Hearing and at locations where the EA is available for review.

All comments submitted by the June 3, 2022 deadline will receive equal consideration regardless of the method of submission.

Anyone requiring additional information or special assistance to participate in the hearing or public comment process should reach out via the project email at i78Lenhartsville@pa.gov or hotline number, 610-973-5193, to coordinate arrangements.

Those who would like to request translation services can reach out via the project email at i78Lenhartsville@pa.gov or hotline number, 610-973-5193.

Si usted desea solicitar servicios de traducción, por favor contacte al correo electrónico del proyecto i78Lenhartsville@pa.gov o llame a la línea directa del proyecto 610-973-5193.

The I-78 Lenhartsville Bridge, which crosses Maiden Creek in Greenwich Township, is aging and does not meet current design standards. The proposed project involves replacing the existing bridge to address the poor structural condition, and to widen it to accommodate acceleration and deceleration lanes and full inside and outside shoulders in each direction.

The I-78 Lenhartsville Bridge Replacement Project is a candidate for bridge tolling through the Major Bridge Public-Private Partnership (MBP3) Initiative, as part of the PennDOT Pathways Program. The Pathways Program seeks to identify potential alternative funding solutions for transportation in the state. Under the initiative, tolls collected would be used for the replacement bridges' construction, maintenance and operation.

There has been an update to PennDOT's planned tolling approach for the I-78 Lenhartsville Bridge Replacement Project. Following community input and continued project analysis, PennDOT will pursue only westbound tolling at this bridge. Traffic would only be tolled westbound at this location.