

# I-80 OVER LEHIGH RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

## Environmental Assessment – Notice of Availability for Review and Comment

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have issued this Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the I-80 Over Lehigh River Bridge Project in Carbon and Luzerne Counties. 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 3, 2022, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on June 2, 2022**. Formal public testimony and comments will be received during an in-person Public Hearing scheduled for May 18, 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/i80LehighRiverBridge](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge) and at the following locations:

### White Haven Borough

312 Main Street  
White Haven, PA 18661

### PennDOT District 5 Office

1002 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, PA 18101

### East Side Borough

100 North Sheaman Road  
White Haven, PA 18661

### FHWA Pa. Division

228 Walnut Street, Room 508  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Additional project information is available online at [www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge) and will be presented at the in-person **Public Hearing scheduled for 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. May 18, 2022 at Mountain Laurel Resort, 81 Treetops Circle, White Haven, PA, 18661**. An open house display on the project will begin at 3:30 p.m. with public comment starting at 4:30 p.m.

The public has numerous options to provide comments on the EA between now and June 2, 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/i80LehighRiverBridge](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge) or by calling 570-793-2045. 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-80 Over Lehigh River Bridge Project, 1002 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101.
- Comments may be emailed to [i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov](mailto:i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov).
- The public may provide comments through the form available online at [www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/i80LehighRiverBridge).
- 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 2, 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 can reach out via the project email at [i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov](mailto:i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov) or hotline number, 570-793-2045, by May 13, 2022 to coordinate arrangements.

Those who would like to request translation services can reach out via the project email at [i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov](mailto:i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov) or hotline number, 570-793-2045.

Si usted desea solicitar servicios de traducción, por favor contacte al correo electrónico del proyecto [i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov](mailto:i80LehighRiverBridge@pa.gov) o llame a la línea directa del proyecto 570-793-2045.

The I-80 Over Lehigh River Bridges, which cross over the Lehigh River, Lehigh Gorge State Park, Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad and SR 1005 (River Road) in Carbon and Luzerne Counties, are aging and reaching the end of their serviceable lifespan. The proposed project will address the deterioration of the aging bridge structures and provide safe connectivity for interstate travelers, commuters, commercial users, emergency services, tourists, and local residents.

The I-80 Over Lehigh River Bridge 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. Traffic would only be tolled eastbound at this location.