



NEWS

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Arcola Road Bridge Reopens

Lower Providence, PA (July 1, 2016) – Today, the Montgomery County Commissioners officially reopened the Arcola Road Bridge. They were joined by Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards, State Rep. Mike Vereb, and other dignitaries at a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the reopening of this important bridge, which was completed on time and under budget.

The \$5.4 million demolition and replacement of the Arcola Road Bridge, which connects Lower and Upper Providence Townships over the Perkiomen Creek, was the largest bridge replacement project in Montgomery County in decades. The federal government paid 80 percent of the costs of the project with the state paying 15 percent and the county contributing five percent.

The bridge, built in 1869 and rebuilt in 1931, was ordered closed by PennDOT on August 16, 2013 for safety reasons. PennDOT inspectors closed the bridge because it was in an advanced state of deterioration, and was not capable of supporting the increased traffic from local development and did not meet current accepted design standards. Prior to its closure, the Arcola Road Bridge had become a major commuter connection in the area, both for the rapidly increasing local population and the thousands of workers who are employed in the area's pharmaceutical firms and surrounding office parks. When it closed about 8,000 vehicles a day had crossed the bridge.

The new Arcola Road Bridge is now wider, safer, has greater capacity, and will allow for heavy truck and emergency vehicle use. The new two-lane span over the picturesque Perkiomen Creek is 267 feet long, with shoulders and an improved sidewalk which makes it safer for pedestrians. Unrivaled cooperation between PennDOT, area legislators, county, and local officials helped get the project completed.

“This critical project was completed on time and under budget thanks to comprehensive and coordinated efforts at all levels of government,” said Josh Shapiro, chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners. “I would like to commend State Rep. Mike Vereb, the county’s Department of Assets and Infrastructure, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, Lower and Upper Providence Townships for their collaborative efforts throughout this process. We demonstrated with this project that government works best when we work together.”