



BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RANDALL AVENUE/EDGELY BRIDGE CLOSURE

For immediate health, safety and welfare concerns, the Randall Avenue/Edgely Bridge closes today to all vehicular traffic. The timeline for the length of this closure is currently unknown. Bristol Township Fire Chief/Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director Kevin Dippolito advises “changes have been made to the Fire and EMS response cards at the 9-1-1 dispatch center to ensure the closest units are sent during the bridge closure.”

The Township is in the process of discussing these new bridge safety concerns with AMTRAK. Once a plan of action is agreed upon, along with a timeline, this information will be provided. The Township is also working with PennDOT on an acceptable detour route and will provide this information once it is approved.

Bristol Township has actively been seeking grant funds for the replacement of Randall Avenue/Edgely Bridge for the past three years. Township Manager Randee Elton advises, “The average daily traffic over the bridge is approximately 400 cars per day with a cost to replace the bridge upwards of \$25 million dollars. With so many higher traffic volume bridges with structural deficiencies in this region, we presume that the low volume of traffic does not make this bridge have a high scoring grant application.” Bristol Township was awarded a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant (MTF) in December 2021 in the amount of \$975,000. This grant was awarded to fix the previously known Priority One Concerns: repair of the spalled concrete abutments adjacent to the bridge bearings at each corner. “The recent report of loose and falling concrete onto the AMTRAK railway tracks is a very new issue and concern”, Elton says, “and is the reason why there is a need for an immediate shut down of the bridge until we can determine if a temporary correction can be safely made.”

The Township is working with all elected officials, including Congressman Fitzpatrick, Senator Santarsiero and Representative Davis’s offices, on a new grant application for replacement of the bridge using funds from the recently passed Infrastructure Bill. The Township was not a direct recipient of any funding from the current Bill therefore making it necessary to submit this application.

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