

PHILO/DUNCAN FALLS BRIDGE -FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-

November 13, 2014 Public Open House

**The current bridge:**

When was the bridge last inspected? The last official inspection was November 2013. Additional special inspections, such as a detailed fracture critical inspection, and underwater inspection have also been completed in recent years.

Is the bridge safe? Yes. The safety of the public is our highest priority. If it becomes unsafe, we will take appropriate action.

What is the life expectancy of the current bridge? An exact life expectancy cannot be determined. We will continue to make repairs to maintain the integrity of the structure and perform inspections to insure the safety of the public.

Why wasn't the bridge open during the last round of repairs? The bridge is narrow and we were unable to complete the repairs in a manner that was safe for our employees and the traveling public without closing the bridge.

What is wrong with the bridge? There is significant deterioration in all elements of the bridge. The piers have cracks and are missing portions in the sandstone base. The steel superstructure has large areas of section loss in the bottom cord, floor beams and verticals. The concrete deck has spalling with large areas of exposed rebar.

Why does the bridge need replaced? Most bridges have a life span of 50 years. The Philo/Duncan Falls Bridge is 60 years old. There are many areas that are in poor condition. It is considered a fracture critical bridge, meaning that certain structural elements MUST be in acceptable condition for the bridge to be safe. This bridge is beyond its' expected life and is narrow, making it functionally obsolete.

Are more repairs needed? There are no repairs scheduled at this time. We will continue to monitor the bridge and schedule repairs as necessary.

What about other bridges in the county? Muskingum County has 412 bridges. 213 are over 50 years old and 82 are load limited.

Can the current piers be used for a new bridge? The existing piers would need to be fully encapsulated and the piers enlarged. There are structural issues with portions of the existing piers. This will be further evaluated.

Planning for a new bridge:

Where will the new bridge be located? The new bridge location is not yet determined. We are in the early planning portion of the bridge replacement process. There are many considerations; including traffic patterns, right of way impacts, economic effects, and environmental impacts. We want the community to understand the process and be involved. Multiple locations and a No-Build option will be evaluated. The analysis of various alternatives will be shared at a future public meeting before any decision is made. Pros and cons will be summarized for each option.

We are in the early planning stages of the project development process. The public will be included at key decision points along the path.



How will the location be selected? There are many factors that will go into the decision making process. The public and other stakeholders' input will be important in the selection process. A No-Build option must also be considered.

How long will it take to build a new bridge? Construction of a bridge this size is generally a minimum of 2 years.

Who will pay for the costs? Currently, the county engineer has been able to secure \$5 million in federal funds for engineering and right-of-way acquisition.

What is the cost for a new bridge? Estimates will be prepared for each alternative and will be part of the decision making process. \$15 million is the preliminary estimate at this time. It will be refined as more details are determined.

Why do we have to do environmental studies? The use of federal funds requires specific studies evaluating the impact on human and natural environments. Identification and mitigation may include human, cultural and ecological impacts.

What about pedestrian and bicycle needs? These needs will be considered for each alternative.

What about the existing businesses near the current bridge? Commercial and residential properties affected will be part of the decision making process.

When is the next public meeting? A specific date has not been set, but is anticipated later in 2015.

How do I stay informed? We are committed to keeping the public informed as we advance through the process. We will advertise our next public meeting via our website, and the media. If you want to be notified personally, please indicate this on your comment sheet.