West Shore Drive Bridge

Comments Received in Response to Letter

75 letters sent. 1 returned undeliverable.

Received:

2 phone calls in favor of partial rehabilitation with posted weight limit.

8 Emails

Email 1: Thank you for bringing this information to the attention of the citizens of Maidencreek. I live within close proximity to the bridge in question so this is an important topic for me and my family.

I like the fact that the bridge is closed to vehicular traffic and would like to see that it remains that way. Having said that I would like to see the bridge rehabbed for foot/bicycle traffic. With the bridge being closed to vehicles it limits the amount of through traffic on the "back side" of the lake. The reduced vehicular traffic really creates a nice quiet stretch of road for dog walker, joggers and bicyclists to really enough the natural beauty of the lake. Thank you and please keep us informed.

Email 2: We received the letter regarding discussion and possible options for rehabilitation of the bridge. First and foremost, I do agree with Penn DOT that 2.5 million to completely rehab the bridge would not be money well spent. Having said that, as a local resident, living less than one mile from Ontelaunee Lake and enjoying walking and hiking, I would like to see the bridge remain for pedestrian use only. The view of the lake and wildlilfe from the bridge is beautiful and something that some may take for granted. In the letter, it was not stated what the cost would be to rehab just for pedestrian use or if the bridge is safe at this point to walk. If the cost would not be prohibitive, I would like to see the bridge remain for that use. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Email 3 & 4: Comment concerning W Shore dr bridge. I would use it on my way to & from work. 5 days/wk. From a resident on Hecktown Rd.

Email 5: I am writing in response to the letter that was sent out regarding the West
Shore Drive Bridge. I am in favor of option 2. I used to use the bridge on a daily basis to get to and from work. I have been using an alternate route but the road is narrow and I have gotten a flat tire being run off the side of the road on these narrower roads.

Email 6: Hello Diane , as you can imagine Ray and I feel only the first two options are workable. No amount of improving will make our road any safer for traffic without considerable changes. We haven't complained about the bridge as we really felt it would be fixed. Last conversation I had with you , I was shown paperwork from Penn dot saying as much. We have all just felt it was normal footdragging .
Until the bridge was closed we and people coming to our farm rarely used Kemmerer as the curve is so dangerous at our drive. The more significant issue is the 66 Kemmerer road farm now owned by the Brittenburg's . I hate driving through there worrying that I will miss someone crossing the road . It was an issue when Minnie lived there that she would be pulling out in her car but now it is very dangerous. George's new building is also right on the road along with multi -work vehicle parking and farm equipment crossing since he also rents land on the south side . With multiple farm employees plus family plus customers coming during the growing season it is very congested there . Parking is only right beside the road , with George's 5 vehicles, 2-5+ employee parking depending on season ,customers and then tractors you can see how if as neighbors we know all this and are super careful what about regular traffic ? Of course Brittenburg's have plans to grow their farm business and it will only become more dangerous if it is kept a through road.

Email 7: Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the West Shore Drive bridge situation.

The bridge closing HAS increased unwanted traffic (as far as we have seen) on Kemmerer, and Berk. On our walks we have even seen vehicles go all the way around and come back to the bridge to get to the opposite side.

Have there been any vehicle counts done before and after its closing to compare? We saw a counter on Koller Road - probably for *that* bridge repair…? Thank you for getting that fixed; it's much safer and looks great, and we do drive through there sometimes.

We would like to see the WSD bridge repaired and back in use with a weight limit to minimize the traffic impact on some sensitive areas - mainly the S-turn over the creek (where there is another bridge being impacted by increased traffic), and the S-turn at the Brittenburg farm with their clean, sustainable, organically grown foods and much activity close to (and on both sides of) the road. That section of road (Berk to West Shore, Brittenburg's to Stoltzfus's) would get less traffic if the bridge gets repaired, minimizing its need for upkeep. Also, unwanted spray painters and trash droppers at the bridge would hopefully stop if traffic is restored.

I agree with the state that there is no need for the WSD bridge to be rehabilitated and widened *at this time*. But what will the next 100 years bring as far as such a need? Are there any township or county/state plans that would in time require heavy vehicles? If so, would it revert back to being a state road again, and state responsibility? Just some thoughts. Thanks for letting us comment.

Email 8: I have a few concerns;

1. to improve the detour it should be widened and get rid of the s-curves on it. The house at 66 kemmerer rd is not a safe situation for the residents or the traffic. The t- intersection at kemmerer rd and west shore is not good. With the down hill slant at the stop sign at the bottom(hit ice and slide through the stop sign)
2. the bridge on Ridge rd. is in deteriorating shape. Will you close and abandon it to in a few years?
3. I personally use this route 2 times a day 5 days a week plus weekends at times
4. I would like the bridge on west shore repaired and reopened would not have a problem with a weight restriction
6. The bridge adds to the scenery

Thank you for your interest and will be waiting for the bridge to reopen
Concerned resident