

**Hasson
19 Walnut Lane
PO Box 262
Salford, PA 18957
610-287-9298**

January 28, 2009

The Hon. Rob Wonderling
427 West Main Street
Lansdale, PA 19446

Dear Sir:

Re: SR 1024 Bridge over Perkiomen Creek

As you may be aware on December 18, 2008 PennDOT unexpectedly closed the bridge over the Perkiomen Creek on Salford Station Road (SR1024) located between Lower Frederick and Upper Salford Townships. PennDOT cited "structural deficiencies" as the reason for this unannounced closure.

This closure has had a dramatic negative impact on us and many other local residents. Let me cite a few of the hardships and concerns we now face -

1. Extended commute to and from work - Tasks as simple as going to the Post Office, grocery store or bank now require an excessive diversion which wastes gasoline and causes wear and tear on secondary roads which are not suited for this extra traffic. With other bridges already closed or scheduled to be closed in the near future getting around is becoming increasingly difficult. The PennDOT detour takes you on a series of windy steep hills that can be quite treacherous during the winter.
2. Public Safety - This bridge represents the quickest path for the closest emergency services to reach our location. It is also the quickest path to the closest hospital.
3. Business disruptions – Many of our neighbors, ourselves included, operate home-based businesses. We have already experienced disruptions in deliveries which have resulted in lost business. It has also affected our ability to patronize businesses in the Harleysville area, where we used to be regular customers.
4. Property values – The bridge closure negatively affects our property values in an already distressed market. Please try to imagine trying to sell or rent a property in an area affected by a bridge which is closed "indefinitely".

We implore you as Chairman of the Transportation Committee to exert whatever pressure you can on PennDOT to accelerate the replacement or repair of this bridge as soon as possible.

Accordingly, we would like to invite you to meet with us and other concerned constituents to hear our concerns and pursue this matter further. Please contact me at the address/number above to arrange this meeting.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Teresa Hasson

cc Lower Frederick Township
Upper Salford Township