

PETROLEUM CENTER BRIDGE REHABILITATION, VENANGO COUNTY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the project is to maintain a dependable crossing over Oil Creek on Petroleum Center Road. Maintaining the transportation system at this location will positively impact the local community including Oil Creek State Park, allow access for motorized and non-motorized traffic, and ensure that emergency services have efficient access.

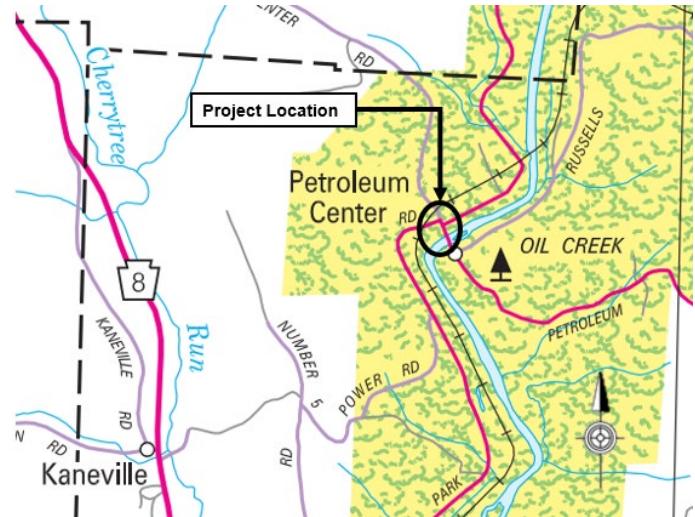
The existing bridge is a 239-foot, two-span, pin-connected, Pratt through truss that was built in 1884. The bridge is an integral link between the state park office, tourist attractions, trails, and campgrounds within Oil Creek State Park. The bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its engineering significance, which includes its distinct design and its standing as an example of work done by the Morse Bridge Company of Youngstown, Ohio.

The bridge is currently closed to motorized vehicles due to deficiency discovered during a routine inspection in fall 2022. In 2023, work to strengthen several truss members was completed by employees from PennDOT's Venango County maintenance facility and the bridge was open to pedestrians and bicyclists.

This project will make additional improvements to the historic truss bridge so it can be restored with a goal of a minimum load carrying capacity of 15 tons.

PROJECT AREA

The bridge is located in Oil Creek State Park between the intersection with State Park Road (Route 1007) and the intersection with Russell Corners Road and connects the Train Station Visitors Center and the Wildcat Hollow group campsite to the Oil Creek State Park Office.



ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION

Construction is anticipated to start in 2027 and will take 12 to 18 months to complete. The project will be completed in multiple phases.

CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

Construction will cost an estimated \$3 million to \$5 million, which is to be paid entirely with federal funds.

View plans and complete the online comment at www.pa.gov/DOTDistrict1.



SECTION 4(f)

The public comment period is an opportunity for the public to comment on the use of Section 4(f) resources within the project area.

Though temporary disruption of trail use shall occur, access will be reestablished once construction is complete. The department's intent to use the Section 4(f) No Use form for rehabilitation of the historic truss bridge including the following:

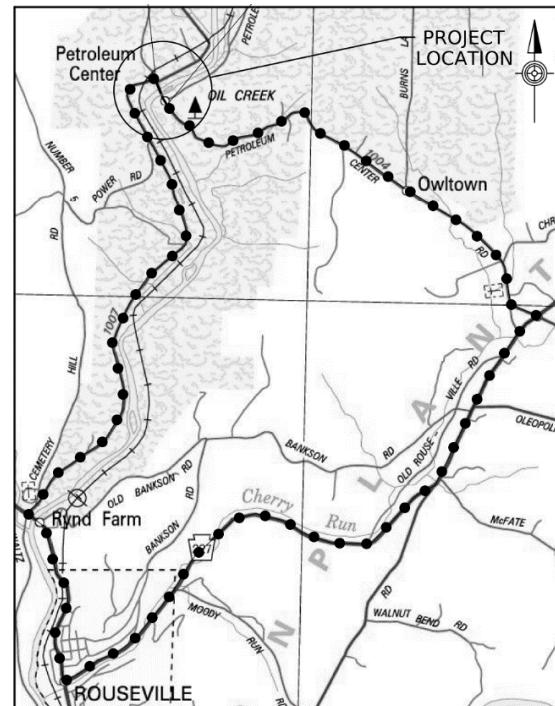
- Temporary Use Form for the temporary closure of the Erie-Pittsburgh Trail across the bridge during construction.
- Temporary Use Form for the temporary disruption of the Oil Creek Water Trail, providing boaters portage around the construction. Boaters will exit the waterway, follow the posted portage route, and re-enter the waterway on the opposing side of the bridge.
- De Minimis Use form for the temporary construction easement and permanent right-of-way from the Oil Creek State Park to perform construction and maintain the bridge in the future.

Comments on Section 4(f) use should be directed to the District Project Manager.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS

The current 11-mile detour for motorized vehicles will remain in place. It uses Route 8, Route 227, State Park Road, and Petroleum Center Road. There is a weight restriction of 10 tons on State Park Road.

Boaters will exit the waterway before the bridge and follow the posted portage route to re-enter the creek on the opposing side of the bridge.



CURRENT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The purpose of the public comment period is to introduce the project and receive input regarding any questions or concerns with the project. It is also an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the project's potential effect upon Cultural Resources pursuant to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's 36 CFR Part 800 regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The project documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats if requested.

Comments and questions can be submitted to PennDOT Stephen Schettler at sschettler@pa.gov, 814-678-7356, or 255 Elm Street, Oil City, PA 16301. An online comment form for the S.R. 1004, Section B00 Bridge Rehabilitation/Restoration is also available at www.penndot.pa.gov/District1.

View plans and complete the online comment at www.pa.gov/DOTDistrict1.