



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING
400 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

June 16, 2025

A-2025-3055600

TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD

Bridge structure and roadway closure where Herron Avenue crosses above grade two (2) public crossings, a single track of Allegheny Valley Railroad (DOT 145 699 S), three (3) tracks of Norfolk Southern Railway Company, in part also operated thereon by CSX Transportation, Inc. and National Passenger Railroad Corporation (DOT 507 477 K), and in addition, crosses above grade the M.L.K. Jr. East Busway of Pittsburgh Regional Transit, located in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

To Whom It May Concern:

At a location in the City of Pittsburgh (City), Allegheny County, the Herron Avenue bridge crosses above grade two (2) public crossings, a single track of Allegheny Valley Railroad (DOT 145 699 S), three (3) tracks of Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS) in part also operated thereon by CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) and National Passenger Railroad Corporation (DOT 947 592 F), and in addition, crosses above grade the M.L.K. Jr. East Busway of Pittsburgh Regional Transit.

According to the Federal Railroad Administrations (FRA) grade crossing inventory an additional crossing number, DOT 947 592 F, exists at the subject location. Notations within the inventory form for DOT 947 592 F indicate that this crossing is a duplicate. Therefore, crossing DOT 507 477 K will be utilized for the subject proceeding. At crossing DOT 507 477 K, the northernmost track of NS is also operated thereon by CSX and the southern two (2) tracks are also operated thereon by National Passenger Railroad Corporation (Amtrak).

By email received by a Commission staff engineer on June 4, 2025, the City requested the Commission affirm the actions taken on May 28, 2025, to close the Herron Avenue bridge to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The subject bridge (NBI Structure Number/Bridge Key 2416) was determined to be in serious structural condition following a recent in-depth safety inspection and structural analysis which noted concrete deterioration with exposed and broken reinforcement at piers 1, 3, and 5. In the interest of public safety, the bridge was closed following the inspection.

The City indicated it is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and local designers and contractors to perform the emergency repairs necessary to reopen the bridge to traffic. A rehabilitation project for the subject bridge is currently in preliminary design with an anticipated start of construction in 2028. The project scope will include full rehabilitation of the piers with repairs to the reinforcement and concrete. The City will file an application with the Commission for the rehabilitation project at a later date.

The Commission hereby establishes its jurisdictional limits at the subject crossing as the area within the confines of the railroad right-of-way and the highway right-of-way inclusive of the entire footprint of the bridge structure, bridge appurtenances, and bridge embankments.

Upon full consideration of the matters involved, we find that a hearing is not necessary and that a Secretarial Letter may be issued affirming the closure of the subject bridge.

The Commission issues this Secretarial Letter in accordance with Section 2702 of the Public Utility Code and finds that the alteration of the crossing is necessary and proper for the service, accommodation, convenience or safety of the public.

Upon review of the circumstances regarding the condition of the crossing and in the interest of safety to the public, we will affirm the closing of the subject bridge and direct the parties to perform the following work accordingly; THEREFORE:

1. The caption of the subject proceeding is hereby revised as shown herein.
2. The action taken by the City of Pittsburgh to close the bridge to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic where Herron Avenue crosses above grade two (2) public crossings, a single track of Allegheny Valley Railroad (DOT 145 699 S), three (3) tracks of Norfolk Southern Railway Company, in part also operated thereon by CSX Transportation, Inc. and National Passenger Railroad Corporation (DOT 507 477 K), and in addition, crosses above grade the M.L.K. Jr. East Busway of Pittsburgh Regional Transit, be and is hereby affirmed.
3. The City of Pittsburgh, at its sole cost and expense, furnish all material and perform all work necessary to establish and maintain any detours or traffic controls that may be required to properly and safely accommodate highway and pedestrian traffic during the time the bridge is closed.
4. The City of Pittsburgh, at its sole cost and expense, maintain any barricades, fencing and signage installed to prevent vehicular and pedestrian access to the subject public crossing until such time that the bridge structure can be repaired or replaced, all in accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Publication 213, Temporary Traffic Control Guidelines and this Secretarial Letter.
5. The City of Pittsburgh, at its sole cost and expense, prepare and submit complete detailed structural repair plans and/or details to address the Critical Priority (Priority 0) Maintenance items at the subject public crossings to all parties for review and to the Commission for affirmation.

6. The City of Pittsburgh, notify local emergency management services and the local school district of the Herron Avenue bridge closure at public crossings DOT 145 699 S and DOT 507 477 K.

7. All parties involved herein cooperate fully with each other so that during the time the subject bridge structure is closed, vehicular, pedestrian and railroad traffic will not be endangered or unnecessarily inconvenienced, and so that the requirements of each of the parties will be provided for and accommodated insofar as possible.

8. Upon completion of the work herein ordered, a formal hearing be held, if requested, to elicit testimony from all affected parties relative to the costs incurred by the parties in performing work in accordance with this letter or other matters relevant to this proceeding.

The Parties are reminded that failure to comply with this or any Order or Secretarial Letter in this proceeding may result in an enforcement action seeking civil penalties and/or other sanctions pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 3301.

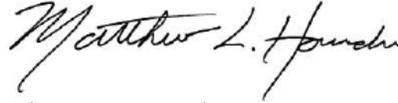
All formal documents must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission. Documents must be eFiled, mailed or hand delivered. All filings should be addressed to the Secretary, PA Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120. The Commission will not accept documents delivered by fax or by e-mail. Parties are encouraged to file formal documents by eFiling with the Secretary of the Commission by opening an eFiling account through the Commission's website (the account is free of charge) and accepting eservice at <https://www.puc.pa.gov/filing-resources/efiling/>.

If your filing contains confidential material, you are required to file by overnight delivery to ensure the timely filing of your submission. There are certain filings that cannot be eFiled, such as filings containing confidential or proprietary material. These must be submitted to the Secretary by overnight delivery, priority, or certified mail to allow tracking of your filing.

If you are dissatisfied with the resolution of this matter, you may, as set forth in 52 Pa. Code §§ 1.31 and 5.44, file a Petition for Reconsideration from Staff Action (Petition) with the Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this letter. The Petition shall be eFiled with the Secretary of the Commission or sent to: Secretary, PA Public Utility Commission, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120, and must be filed within twenty (20) days, or if no timely request is made, the action will be deemed to be a final action of the Commission.

The Petition MUST include: (1) a written statement (divided into numbered paragraphs) outlining the reasons for the request; (2) the case docket number (it is provided for you at the top right-hand corner of this letter); (3) the party on whose behalf the petition is made; (4) a Certificate of Service on the other parties of record; and (5) a Verification with original signature in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.36.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew L. Homsher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Matthew L. Homsher
Secretary