



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

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO OUR FILE

July 10, 2025

A-2025-3054586

**TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD**

Application of the City of Pittsburgh for approval to alter the public crossing (DOT 507 484 V) by the rehabilitation of the existing bridge where South Negley Avenue crosses, above grade, two (2) tracks of Norfolk Southern Railway Company and the M.L.K. Jr. East Busway of Pittsburgh Regional Transit, located in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, the allocation of costs incident thereto to and exemption from the Commission's minimum overhead clearance requirements pursuant to Title 52 Pennsylvania Code, Section 33.121.

To Whom It May Concern:

At a location in the City of Pittsburgh (City), Allegheny County, the South Negley Avenue bridge crosses above grade, two (2) tracks of Norfolk Southern Railway Company and the M.L.K. Jr. East Busway of Pittsburgh Regional Transit.

On June 23, 2025, during a formal field investigation and conference to discuss matters pertaining to the approval of the subject application, the City indicated that it had closed access to the pedestrian sidewalks on the bridge during the summer of 2024. The City was directed by a Commission staff engineer to request affirmation of the closure of the sidewalks from the Commission.

By email received by a Commission staff engineer on July 2, 2025, the City requested the Commission affirm the actions taken on June 18, 2024 to close the sidewalks on the South Negley Avenue bridge to all pedestrian traffic.

The City indicated that during an-depth safety inspection of the subject bridge (NBI Structure Number/Bridge Key 2453) advanced deterioration of the floorbeam cantilever brackets supporting the sidewalks was discovered. In the interest of public safety, the sidewalks on the subject bridge were closed following the inspection and a barrier-protected pedestrian pathway was established in the cartway.

The sidewalks, which are located on the exterior of the truss members, are anticipated to remain closed until the bridge is rehabilitated as part of the subject proceeding. The bridge remains on a 6-month inspection frequency and is currently posted for a maximum vehicular load of 32 Tons except combination vehicles 35 Tons. Approval of the City's application by the Commission for the rehabilitation of the subject bridge is forthcoming.

The parties are reminded that changes in use, railroad structure changes, bridge load posting/closures, alterations and changes in maintenance are matters to be memorialized, affirmed, and approved under Section 2702 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code for all Commission jurisdictional bridges and public crossings.

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 sidewalks on the subject bridge and the establishment of a barrier-protected pedestrian pathway in the cartway.

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 sidewalks on 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 sidewalks on the bridge to all pedestrian traffic and establish a barrier-protected pedestrian pathway within the cartway where South Negley Avenue crosses, above grade, two (2) tracks of Norfolk Southern Railway Company and the M.L.K. Jr. East Busway of Pittsburgh Regional Transit, located in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, 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 pedestrian traffic during the time the sidewalks on the bridge are closed.
4. The City of Pittsburgh, at its sole cost and expense, maintain any barricades, fencing and signage installed to prevent pedestrian access to the closed sidewalks located on the exterior of the truss members of 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, notify local emergency management services and the local school district of the closure of the sidewalks on the South Negley Avenue bridge at public crossing DOT 507 484 V.
6. All parties involved herein cooperate fully with each other so that during the time the sidewalks on the subject bridge structure are 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.

7. 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,



Matthew L. Homsher  
Secretary