

EMAILS TO/FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVES' S OFFICE REGARDING THE ONE LANGE BRIDGE RESTRICTION ON THE HARMAR PORTION OF RICH HILL ROAD. PLEASE READ FROM THE BOTOM TO THE TOP.

DATE: 8/6/08

FROM DARRIN TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

LOL...I apologize for laughing, but Harmar must have a mandated policy (from the top - down) of NOT returning calls, emails, registered letters, etc.

They have failed to get in touch with me for the last 9 months.

Any other suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Darrin

From: Dardanell, Megan [mailto:Megan.Dardanell@AlleghenyCounty.US]
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 9:33 AM
To: Krally, Darrin
Cc: Executive
Subject: RE: On behalf of Dan Onorato - Bridge on Rich Hill Road

Mr. Krally,

I would suggest that you contact Harmar Township to discuss your suggestions with them directly.

Megan

From: Krally, Darrin
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 9:13 AM
To: Dardanell, Megan
Cc: Executive
Subject: RE: On behalf of Dan Onorato - Bridge on Rich Hill Road

Megan:

I appreciate the quick response. Thank you.

One question – from a legal perspective, shouldn't Harmar Township have weight restriction signs placed along the road? If so, how do we make this happen?

The fact that no one can escape is this; we have a dangerous road on the Harmar portion of Rich Hill, now equipped with a one lane bridge, with even more motorists traveling the road on a daily basis. Motorists use Rich Hill as a short cut to Route 28. Believe me, 2 cars still cross the bridge simultaneously while in the same lane, thus increasing the weight on the bridge. Perhaps Harmar should strategically

place a police office there to control and maintain order? (especially from 6-8 am and then again from 4-6 pm) I am open to suggestion.

Please advise. Thank you again Megan. I do not wish to upset you, but I have a large group of constituents that I am accountable for.

Sincerely,

Darrin J. Krally

From: Dardanell, Megan [mailto:Megan.Dardanell@AlleghenyCounty.US]
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 8:46 AM
To: Krally, Darrin
Cc: Executive
Subject: RE: On behalf of Dan Onorato - Bridge on Rich Hill Road

Mr. Krally,

As I mentioned, this has to do with a weight restriction for the bridge. This is not a case of half of the bridge being dangerous and half the bridge being safe. As an Indiana Township Supervisor, I am sure you are aware of other bridges in our region that have weight restrictions. This is the same issue. There are dozens of bridges across the state that are owned by municipalities, the county and the state that have weight restrictions. It is not an ideal situation, but unfortunately, necessary. As I also mentioned, we are hoping to begin construction late this year or early next year. I am not sure how that translates into 1-2 years. We are working with PennDOT to do the repairs as quickly as possible.

I have always taken the time to respond to your emails, so I do take issue with your comments. I have also answered your questions repeatedly, but I suspect you are not happy with the answers. I understand that. We certainly understand your concerns regarding safety and we are working to correct the situation as quickly as possible. I also understand your frustration regarding the condition of Rich Hill Road, but as I have explained numerous times, we cannot force Harmar Township to apply for a loan from the County.

I might recommend that you contact your state senator and representative, as well as your federal representatives, as they may have access to additional funding for repairs that the county does not have access to for repairs to Rich Hill Road.

Again, I understand your frustration and your determination and I am more than happy to speak with you. Please don't hesitate to call me directly at 412-350-3711.

Sincerely,

Megan Dardanell
Office of the County Executive

From: Krally, Darrin
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 8:22 AM
To: Dardanell, Megan

Cc: Executive

Subject: RE: On behalf of Dan Onorato - Bridge on Rich Hill Road

Megan:

I am not too sure I understand your response. I am not an Engineer, but protecting ½ of a damaged bridge makes no sense to me at all. If ½ of the bridge is bad, I would think that a complete shut down of the bridge is necessary.

The current bridge/lane restriction is a danger. We have an overflow of traffic due to Route 28 construction. This is not good. I am thinking that all of this extra weight on the “good” half of the bridge may lead to a collapse. Is there anything else the County or Penn DOT can do being that repair is about 1-2 years away? Again, this is a VERY dangerous situation.

I would appreciate a response in a timely manner. Please advise.

Thank you,

Darrin

From: Dardanell, Megan [mailto:Megan.Dardanell@AlleghenyCounty.US]

Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 8:00 AM

To: Krally, Darrin

Cc: Executive

Subject: On behalf of Dan Onorato - Bridge on Rich Hill Road

August 6, 2008

Dear Mr. Krally:

As I explained in an email dated June 10, 2008, we hope to begin work on the bridge later this year or early in 2009. I have included the email below in case for some reason you did not receive it, although I believe you did, as you did respond directly. Please be aware that the bridge restriction is necessary. Upon inspection, as required by federal law, it was determined that a weight restriction is necessary until the bridge is repaired. We have sent the bridge repair design to PennDOT for review and comments and we have expressed the need for this bridge to be repaired quickly. Again, we hope to have the work bid and begin construction by the end of this year or early in 2009. Until that time, we must maintain the lane restriction on the bridge for weight restrictions. Once a bridge receives a weight restriction, it must be inspected annually, according to federal law.

I hope this answers your question.

Sincerely,

Megan Dardanell
Office of the County Executive

(copy of previous email)

June 10, 2008

Mr. Krally:

I apologize for the delay in getting back to you. The County's Bridge Division is working with Penn Dot on the re-construction of this bridge. They are working on a design, which will require a final approval. They hope to begin work later this year or early in 2009.

To answer your other questions, Joe Klak, an Environmental Specialist with Economic Development, visited the road and bridge and agreed that they are both in need of repair. Because the road will not qualify for CDBG funding, as you know, we are recommending an Authority for Improvements in Municipalities (AIM) loan. AIM was created to assist municipalities in financing vital and necessary capital improvement infrastructure projects. AIM provides loans for equipment, buildings and infrastructure. The current interest rate is 2.95% with a 5 year repayment. Loans are limited to \$100,000 but because of the inter-municipal nature, one or both entities could petition the Board for a greater sum.

Ron Rydzak has already contacted both Harmar and Indiana municipal managers to explain the AIM program.

Thank you again for contacting our office. I hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely,

Megan Dardanell
Office of the County Executive

From: Krally, Darrin
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2008 5:30 PM
To: Dardanell, Megan
Cc: Executive
Subject: Bridge on Rich Hill Road
Importance: High

Hello:

I have not heard back from you as of yet. Can you please let me know if you can take down the unnecessary 1 lane bridge that your group has created on Rich Hill Road?

Thank you,

Darrin J. Krally

(sent 7-31-08)

Good morning:

I am writing to express my sincere concern for the safety of motorists who travel along Rich Hill Road. Allegheny County and Penn DOT have partnered and will be repairing a damaged bridge along Rich Hill

Road. The main question is when will this work actually begin? In the effort to begin repair work approximately 6 months ago, your group has made a normal 2 lane bridge into a 1 lane bridge. This was clearly a mistake.

You did not take into consideration the limited view as you approach the bridge from both sides. There have been countless occurrences in which motorists have nearly collided due to these circumstances. I can tell you that the Route 28 construction brings a great deal more cars onto Rich Hill Road. This creates even more danger.

I do not understand why no work is being done at this time. Megan informed me that work on this bridge may not begin well into 2009. This is completely unacceptable. You have taken a road already in need of repair/repavement and made it 200 times worse.

Can you please take down your single lane bridge until you are actually ready to work on it? Residents of both Indiana Township and Harmar would appreciate it very much.

Please let me know ASAP.

Thank you,

Darrin J. Krally