

News for Immediate Release

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Freemansburg Avenue Bridge over Nancy Run to Close in Freemansburg Borough,
Northampton County Bridge inspection shows undermining of bridge abutment

Allentown - The Department of Transportation announced today the Freemansburg Avenue Bridge over Nancy Run in Freemansburg Borough, Northampton County will be closed by 7 p.m. It is being closed due to abutment scouring.

An inspection of the Bridge this week discovered scouring by stream water has undermined a portion of the bridge's western abutment - which means some of the ground supporting the abutment has been washed out, leaving a void.

An abutment is part of a bridge that supports the superstructure (beams and deck). Abutments are located at both ends of a bridge.

"Our first priority is the safety of the motoring public, therefore the Freemansburg Avenue Bridge will remain closed until further notice," District Executive Michael W. Rebert said. "We are in the process of hiring a contractor under an emergency contract to make repairs as quickly as possible."

PennDOT bridge engineers are developing plans to excavate and underpin the abutment in an attempt shore it up and prevent future scouring. There is no estimate on how long this work will take. Updates will be provided as work progresses.

Freemansburg Avenue will be closed between Main and Washington streets. Motorists are strongly encouraged to avoid the area and seek alternate routes.

The Freemansburg Avenue Bridge over Nancy Run is a single span, 33 wide, 23 foot long concrete arch bridge that was built in 1938. This section of Freemansburg Avenue has an average daily traffic volume of 10,752 vehicles.

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