

Dear Upper Allen Township Commissioners and Cumberland County Officials,
I would like to respectfully suggest that we take a step back and allow more time for careful consideration regarding the future of Bishop Bridge.

At present, Upper Allen Township does not have a township planner. Township staff and commissioners are working diligently to address the situation surrounding the bridge, but the complexity of the issue suggests that additional time and coordinated planning would be beneficial.

Several important stakeholders and considerations have not yet been fully addressed:

- Reports of potential housing development on Messiah University land remain unconfirmed.
- The neighboring landowner, Mr. Patterson, has not been fully engaged in discussion beyond expressing concern about a possible turnaround near his driveway.
- The Klinepeter family has also indicated that they do not support a turnaround in that location.
- Monaghan Township in York County has not yet weighed in on the matter.
- The State Historic Preservation Office has offered suggestions regarding potential grant opportunities while also noting preservation requirements.

Given these factors, it seems premature to move quickly toward a final decision. The bridge is already closed, so there is no immediate safety emergency requiring rapid action.

It may be beneficial for the township to engage a planner or conduct a formal feasibility study to evaluate all options, including preservation, rehabilitation, funding opportunities, and regional coordination with York County.

Equally important, residents would benefit from more information about the situation. Public discussion has at times become unnecessarily heated. Greater transparency and clear communication could help ensure that community members feel informed and heard.

There is no immediate threat requiring rushed action. Taking the time to carefully organize the facts, consult appropriate agencies such as the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and evaluate funding and preservation options may lead to a more thoughtful and constructive outcome for everyone involved.

Thank you for your time and for the work you are doing on behalf of the community.

Sincerely,
M Judy Bailey
450 East Lisburn Rd
Mechanicsburg, PA

Upper Allen Township Commissioners,

With the continued discussion regarding Bishop Bridge, we would like to communicate our support for preserving the historic bridge as opposed to demolishing it. The efforts of the commissioners working towards the preservation effort demonstrates a willingness to work at the county and state level to secure funds to lessen the burden of the taxpayer. While disassembling and storing the parts may not be the most timely or straight forward method, it is certainly a more constructive effort to preserve the history and integrity of this township. This is a permanent decision and demolishing an historic bridge after spending the year of 2025 celebrating its rich 175 year old history seems contradictory to residents.

As a young family we moved to the township nine years ago from the other side of Mechanicsburg. Like most families deciding factors included the school district and community. Additionally what made Upper Allen appealing was the open farmland, planned parks, and preservation of the areas surrounding the Yellow Breeches and McCormick Road due to the natural beauty and peace that they bring to families both near and far. We have, like a lot of families living in proximity to us, appreciated the Save the Farm efforts as well as the recognition of historical areas to prevent further development from happening. Valuing in the history of a community instills respect and care for what we have, as opposed to looking towards the next trendy business to keep the community fiscally afloat. Please take note of how many residents signed the petition to save the bridge when making your final decision. We may not be as vocal on social media or during meetings, but we live here in close proximity to these preservation projects and desire to be valued and considered equally.

Unfortunately under the direction of previous sitting commissioners, we have watched open spaces be filled with countless residential developments lacking trees and green spaces and commercial buildings that serve similar purpose on opposing sides of the street (ie. the 3 car washes within a mile of each other and the turkey hill right down from a

7-eleven that is heavily loitered). Market Street leading down to the Yellow Breeches to Bishop Road resembles a mini Carlisle Pike more and more each year, with matching commercial leasing signs and vacant buildings. This development has raised resident's taxes and understandably now residents are concerned about further expenditures like the bridge. However, to destroy something historic in an effort to save money is a rare event that should be studied.

We are asking the current board to find more balance between the preservation and development of Upper Allen Township. Growth is wonderful, but something is a miss if a township is unable to take care of historic parts of the community while planning the next million dollar park renovation. It is our hope that Bishop Bridge will have a similar ending to the Sheepford Road bridge as they exist less than 10 miles from each other. We are confident that it will be done so in a fiscally responsible manner under the direction of those commissioners leading the charge for the Bishop Bridge preservation and thank those commissioners walking into their board seat in the midst of this divisive conversation.

Respectfully,

Katie and Greg Bernstein

Dear Ms Minana,

It is my strongest hope that Cumberland and York counties unite, alongside Upper Allen Township to save the Bishop Road Bridge.

I no longer reside in Cumberland County as my career as a US Naval officer took me away from the area years ago. I lived in Lower Allen Township/Cumberland county till my commissioning. I am a Highland Elementary, Lemoyne Jr High and Cedar Cliff HS graduate. I can assure you though I spent numerous youthful days exploring and enjoying the splendid Yellow Breeches Creek. I swam at the Spangler's Mill and Green Lane Farm dams, tube floated down the Breeches many times and did my fair share of fishing.

I mentioned the two dams as I know that both were demolished. It was bittersweet to see childhood memories disappear, but the benefit to the creek was obvious and necessary. Destruction of the Bishop Road Bridge is neither.

Destruction - it is a severe word. Once gone, once destroyed, the Bishop Road Bridge and its link to the creek, to the community is gone forever. It is part of the historic fabric which binds both counties and certainly integral to Upper Allen Township. I ask that both Counties and the Township act together to save the bridge and what is a fascinating architectural and historical aspect of the community. Once gone it is irrecoverable.

I ask both the County and Township officials to save and preserve the Bishop Road Bridge (disassemble and storage). Preserve it for another generation of residents who love the Yellow Breeches as much as I did and still do.

Thank you for your time.

R,

Jim Convery
CDR USN (Ret)

Greetings,

As a Monaghan Twp. resident who lives closer to Upper Allen than Dillsburg, and one who spends an equal amount of time in Mechanicsburg, I am in definite support of saving the Bishop Bridge in any shape or form.

It is an historic treasure that must be preserved / rehabilitated.

For safety measures and also as a viable travel road / route for nearby residents, the bridge especially must be preserved and returned to its normal function.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Joe Guty
Monaghan Twp.

Eric...at least the bridge won't be lost and it will be interesting to see what transpires with grants and donations. From my perspective it looks like a win for completion of the project and it's not like there is a time element involved? Hopefully there will be support from York county also. I would suspect when the final details are known and approved then an organized campaign can be announced?. Sorry if I missed some of the details involved.

Christopher Hess

I support the preservation of the Bishop bridge by dismantling it, fixing structural problems and replacing it at its current location. I would be willing to donate funds towards this outcome.

Sincerely,

Karen Nesmith
1118 E. Lisburn Rd
Mechanicsburg, Pa
17055

Greetings Ms. Minana.

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for ongoing efforts to preserve the Bishop Bridge.

Much time and effort has been expended by the many parties who are interested in preserving this important piece of Pennsylvania history. And, after considering additional input from Upper Allen Township constituents, our Commissioners have developed a "Request to Cumberland and York Counties for their careful disassembly of Bishop Road Bridge, for Storage." This is a common-sense request that recognizes the desire of many to preserve this historic, irreplaceable structure, while also recognizing that other constituents do not wish to see Township tax dollars used for such a project. The Commissioners' request is also consistent with the recommendations of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office recommendations, as set forth in their letter dated January 29, 2026 to Kirk Stoner, that the bridge should be preserved by careful disassembly, and given to Upper Allen Township for storage until further restoration plans can be developed and implemented. Doing so prevents the loss of a historic structure, allows Cumberland County to finally conclude its efforts with regard to this issue, and allows Upper Allen Township to meet the desires of constituents favoring preservation and those who do not want to spend Township tax dollars on the project. This surely seems like a win-win-win-win situation for everyone involved! I see no reason why our Township or County Commissioners should not take the steps necessary to implement this plan.

My family has lived in Upper Allen Township and Cumberland County for more than 80 years. While we see value in ongoing development in our neighborhoods, we also see great value in preservation of our historic structures, facilities and cultures. Those things help to make the place we call home such a wonderful place to live.

I applaud this ongoing effort by the Upper Allen Township Commissioners, and hope the Cumberland County Commissioners will also recognize that the proposal includes a smart plan that balances the wise use of public resources with the need to preserve the irreplaceable.

In my household we will continue to support the efforts to preserve Bishop Bridge. We also intend to provide whatever financial and administrative assistance that we are able to muster to that end.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter, and registering my continued support for the efforts to preserve the Bishop Bridge.

Rodney Nesmith
1118 E. Lisburn Road

As an Upper Allen Township resident since 1982, with an interest in architectural preservation, I would like the Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners to consider making a request to Cumberland County Commissioners to salvage the Bishop Bridge and place the structure in storage to potentially restore and reuse the bridge at some other time in the future. It would be short-sighted if the township destroyed this piece of Upper Allen Township history and removed its charm from being shared by future generations.

We should give the Bishop Bridge structure the same respect we would have if this was a covered bridge.

The Bishop Bridge is a history lesson for all of us and once it is destroyed there is no going back.

Should the Upper Allen Township Board of Commissioners make the decision to destroy the bridge because a handful of residents make the most noise against salvaging the structure? Perhaps a group of concerned township residents interested in historical preservation will form a group and come up with some creative ideas to save and restore the structure. Thank you.

Mike Onofrey

Elaine Peebles (listed - but not provided by staff)

Commissioners/Officials:

Lauren Livingston and I, Neal Schier, of 7 Hemlock Drive Mechanicsburg (Upper Allen Township) write in support of all efforts to save the Upper Allen historical Bishop Bridge. The Bishop Bridge is an important artifact in Upper Allen's history and should be preserved. We understand that certain members of the Upper Allen Board of Commissioners have already crafted detailed and quite workable plans to disassemble the bridge and place it in storage. This is an excellent idea for in fact, storing the bridge is a more cost-effective course of action than actually having the bridge destroyed and carted away. In fact, the Pennsylvania State Historical Preservation Office endorses Upper Allen's efforts— very robust seal of how good this plan really is.

Additionally, storing the bridge gives the Township and its residents time and options —time to raise funds, through grants and other fund-raising efforts, as the where and when the bridge could be rebuilt should that be what the residents decide.

While I understand that there is a cohort of vocal residents who oppose the storing of the bridge, I would respectfully argue that they simply do not understand that this is the wisest and most efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Please filter out the querulous voices of opposition and provide all available guidance, funding, and expertise to Upper Allen Township officials so that the bridge may be preserved for future generations.

Time is of the essence in this matter. I understand the Upper Allen Board will be meeting on Wednesday, the 18th of March, to make a decision on this project.

Very respectfully,

// Signed//

Neal Schier

Lauren A. Livingston

7 Hemlock Drive

I hope the township commissioners approve the proposal to disassemble the bridge until a plan can be made for restoration.

This is a perfectly reasonable compromise to the debate over the bridge's future

Robert Swift
920 Grantham Rd
Grantham Pa

I support the Upper Allen township's efforts for careful disassembly and storage of Bishop Bridge. Preservation of our local Heritage is important. Please consider preserving Bishop Bridge

Sincerely,
Upper Allen Township citizen
Marjorie Taylor

Please save the bridge.! Thanks!
From David Taylor

I am an Upper Allen resident and I support saving the Bishop Bridge
Evie Telfer

Dear Secretary Minana and Commissioners,
I have long been interested in preservation projects in this deeply historic part of the country.

Dismantling and storing the Bishop Bridge until it can be reassembled retains its historic value.

I am particularly pleased that it would be rebuilt to carry motor vehicles and would gladly donate funds for such reconstruction.

Hoping for quick resolution to get it fully functioning again,

Sincerely,
Elaine Weibel
UAT Resident

In my letter I neglected to mention that I have 2 granddaughters, both students at Messiah University, who are surprisingly interested in protecting that old Bishop Bridge. They tell me their friends feel the same way, but I can't speak to that.

Best regards,
Elaine Weibel

Alexis,

Please share this email with the BOC.

I do not understand why the Bishop Road Bridge cannot be preserved. For the last 15 years or so, it seems that Upper Allen Commissioners are determined to change the character and attributes that draw people to move here.

I fully support the stay on the demolition of the Bishop Road Bridge, and storage if necessary.

As soon as the Webercroft group no longer needs funds to fight the warehouse project, I would be willing to donate money if the bridge needs to be stored

Thank you.

Raymond White