

A photograph of the Skinner's Falls Bridge, a large steel truss bridge spanning a river. The bridge has a complex lattice of steel beams and is supported by stone piers. The surrounding area is wooded, and a house is visible on the left bank. The sky is clear and blue.

Skinner's Falls Bridge

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

Public Meeting

March 30, 2021

Agenda



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Introduction



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Project History



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Planning and
Environmental
Linkage (PEL) Study
Components



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Discussion of Local
Needs



05

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Introduction

Skidders Falls PEL Study Team

- **PennDOT:** Co-owner, primary responsibility for maintenance, manages the planning process
- **NYSDOT:** Co-owner and partner in Joint Interstate Bridge Commission
- **FHWA:** Federal lead agency, primary funding source, provides regulatory oversight
- **AECOM:** Consultant completing technical work on behalf of PennDOT
- **Project Advisory Committee:** County and municipal government representatives and other key project area stakeholders, advising on local needs



Project History

Bridge History

Owned by the NY-PA Joint Interstate Bridge Commission

- Established 1919 to eliminate bridge tolls
- Joint ownership of 10 bridges over the Delaware River
- PennDOT maintains primary maintenance responsibility for the Skinners Falls Bridge



**SR 1002 over the Delaware River
between Wayne County, PA and
Sullivan County, NY**



Originally constructed in 1902



Baltimore through truss



**Two span structure with
overall length of 466-ft**

Cultural Significance



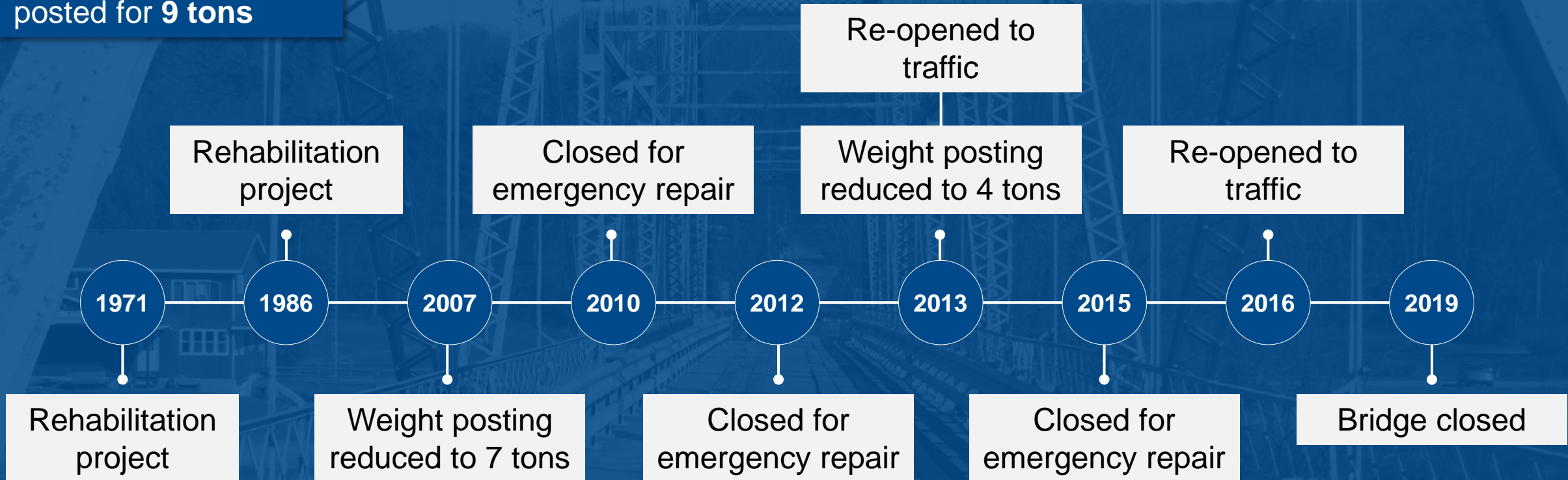
Contributing Element
to the Milanville, PA
Historic District

National Register of
Historic Places

Located within the
Upper Delaware
Scenic and
Recreational River
Area managed by the
National Park Service

Operational History

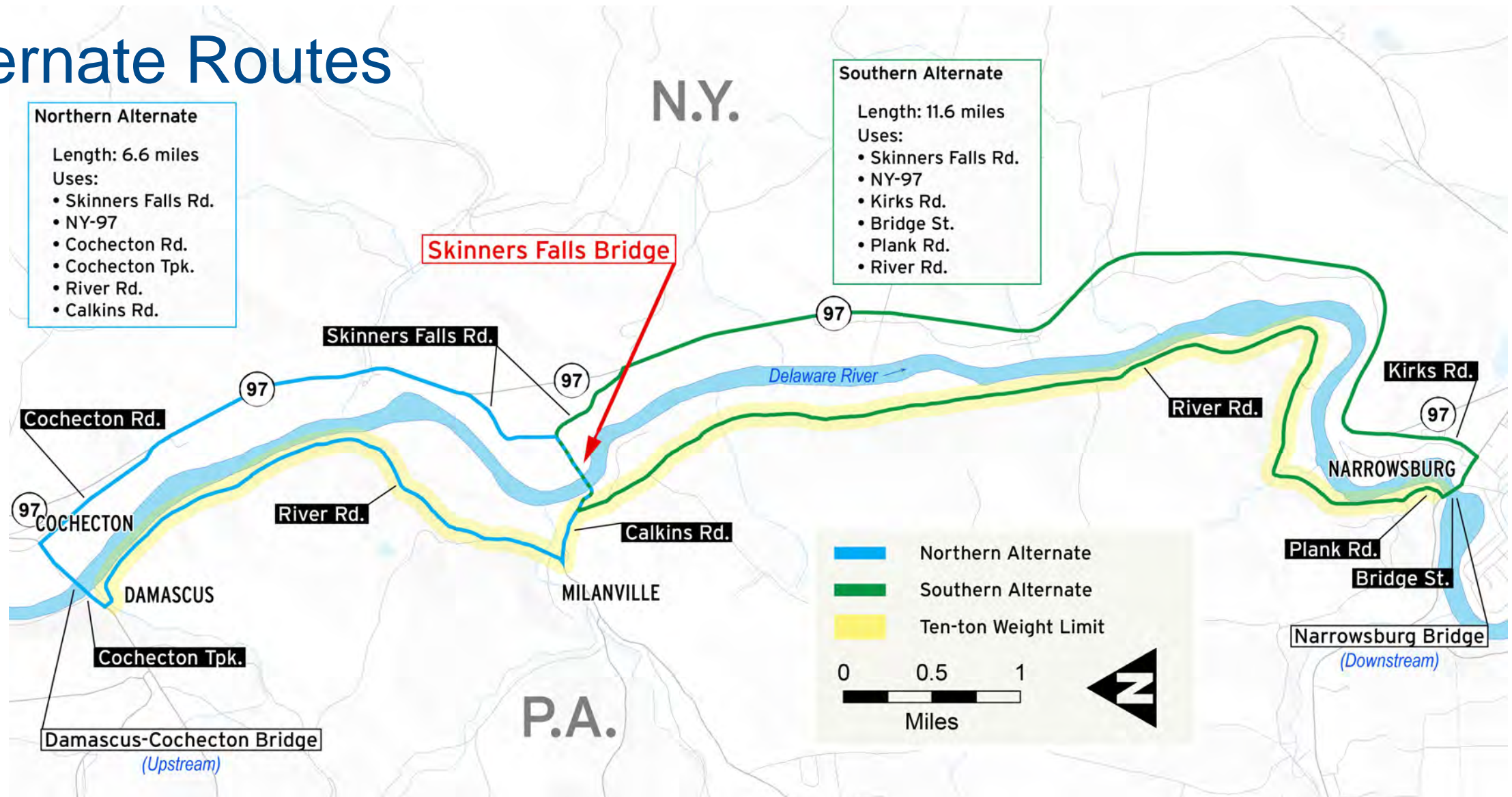
From inception weight posted for **9 tons**



Operational History

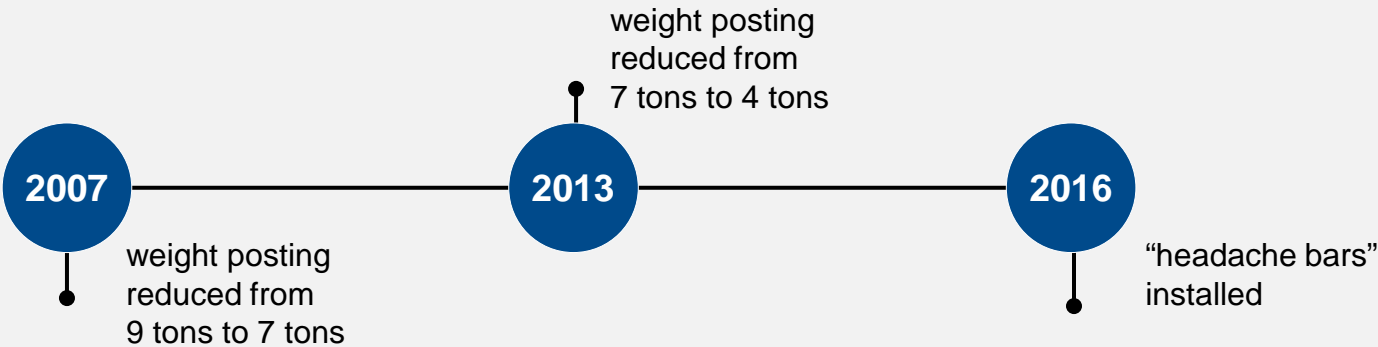


Alternate Routes



Bridge Usage

Year	Volume	Volume of Vehicles > 10 Ton	Volume of Heaviest Truck Counted
July 27, 2017	379	13	13 (2-axle w/ 6 tires) 8+ tons
July 18, 2012	384	29	1 (4-axle) 30+ tons
September 6, 2007	412	39	3 (5-axle semi) 40+ tons
September 10, 2002	368	37	3 (5-axle semi) 40+ tons
July 15, 1998	913	83	7 (5-axle semi) 40+ tons



Source : PennDOT

Joint Position Statement

- Submitted to PennDOT by local governments and other project stakeholders
- Key Issues
 - Emergency response
 - Economic importance
 - Historic value
 - Roadway connectivity
 - Long-term functionality
- PEL study seeks to understand and identify specific transportation needs





PEL Scope

The Skinners Falls Planning & Environmental Linkages Study

- Planning and Environmental Linkages is a flexible process that can be used to aid decision-making for transportation projects
- The Skinners Falls PEL Study goal is to build agreement for a path forward
 - Work with key stakeholders and the public
 - Identify transportation needs
 - Evaluate potential options for future project analysis
- Study findings become the foundation for the environmental review process

Skidders Falls PEL Components

Stakeholder and Public Involvement (Throughout Project)

Review existing data – with limited collection of new data

Purpose and Need Document

Public review of Purpose and Need

February

March

April

May

June



Public & Stakeholder Coordination

Stakeholder and Public Outreach

Purpose



Understand local needs

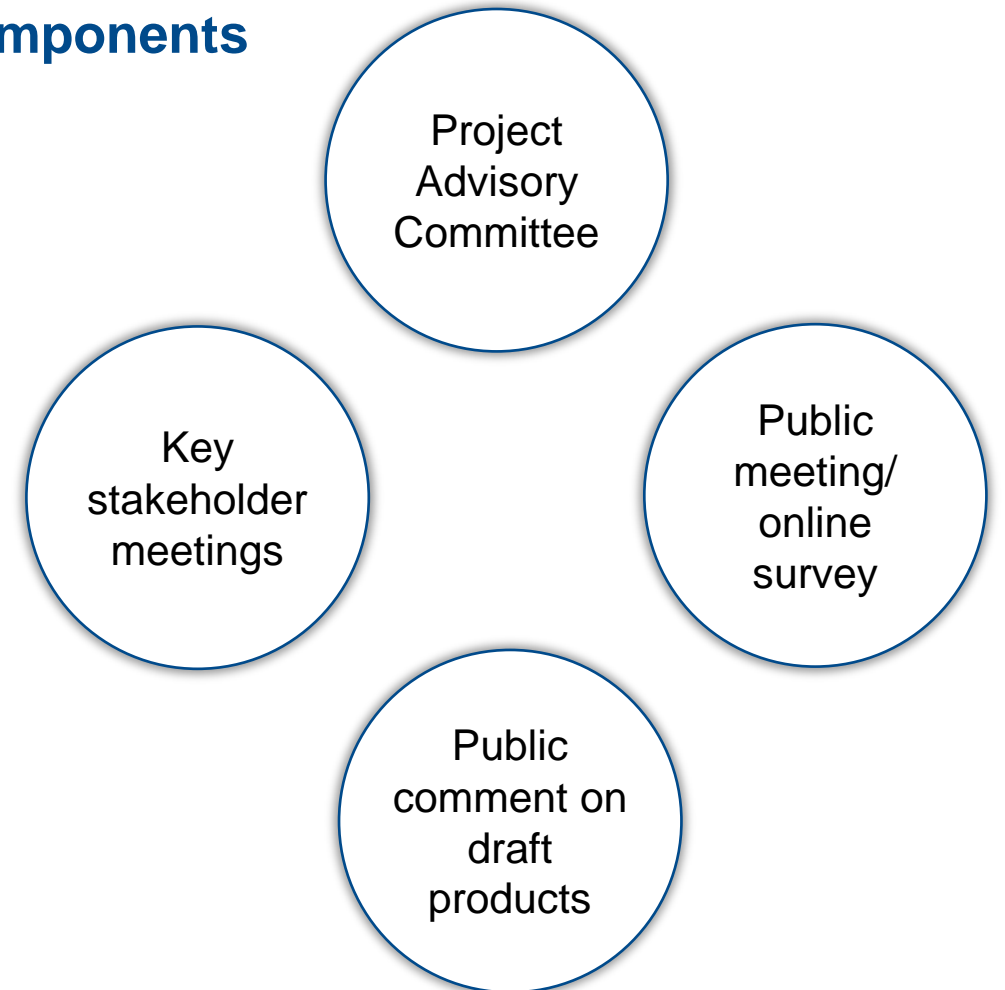


Identify opportunities, concerns,
and areas of conflict

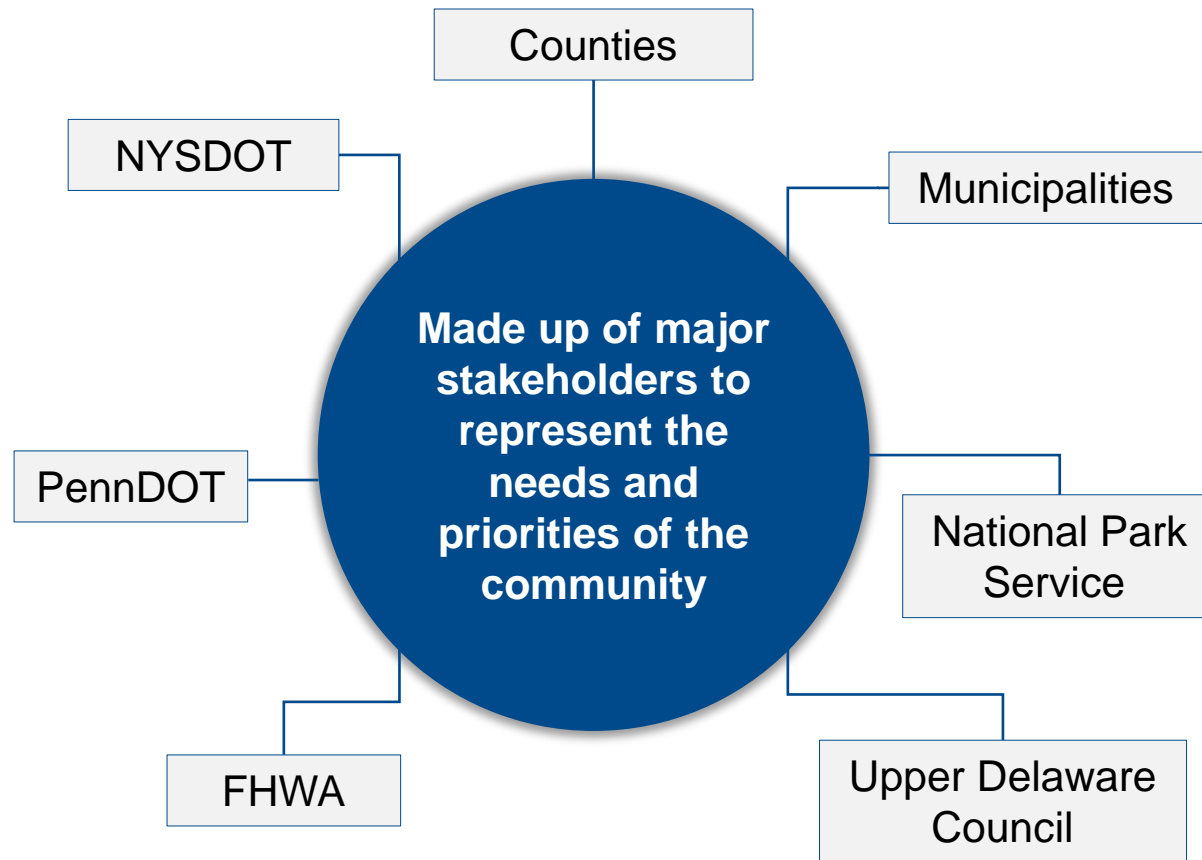


Use feedback to
inform recommendations

Components



Project Advisory Committee



Committee Responsibilities

- Provide information on local and regional needs, issues, and activities related to Skinners Falls Bridge
- Advise Study Team on how transportation needs could be met within realistically available resources
- Communicate with constituents about the project
- Encourage participation in public meeting and survey

Stakeholder Meetings

Focused discussions to identify key issues to be considered

PennDOT Agency Coordination Meeting

Confirm regulatory issues to be considered

Emergency service providers

Understand emergency response needs

- How was bridge used prior to closure
- Closure impacts to response times
- Types of vehicles that need to access bridge

National Park Service

Understand cultural and economic impacts of current bridge closure

Public Meeting & Survey



Seeking feedback of local users and visitors



Online survey through April 23rd



Video conference live meeting with presentation

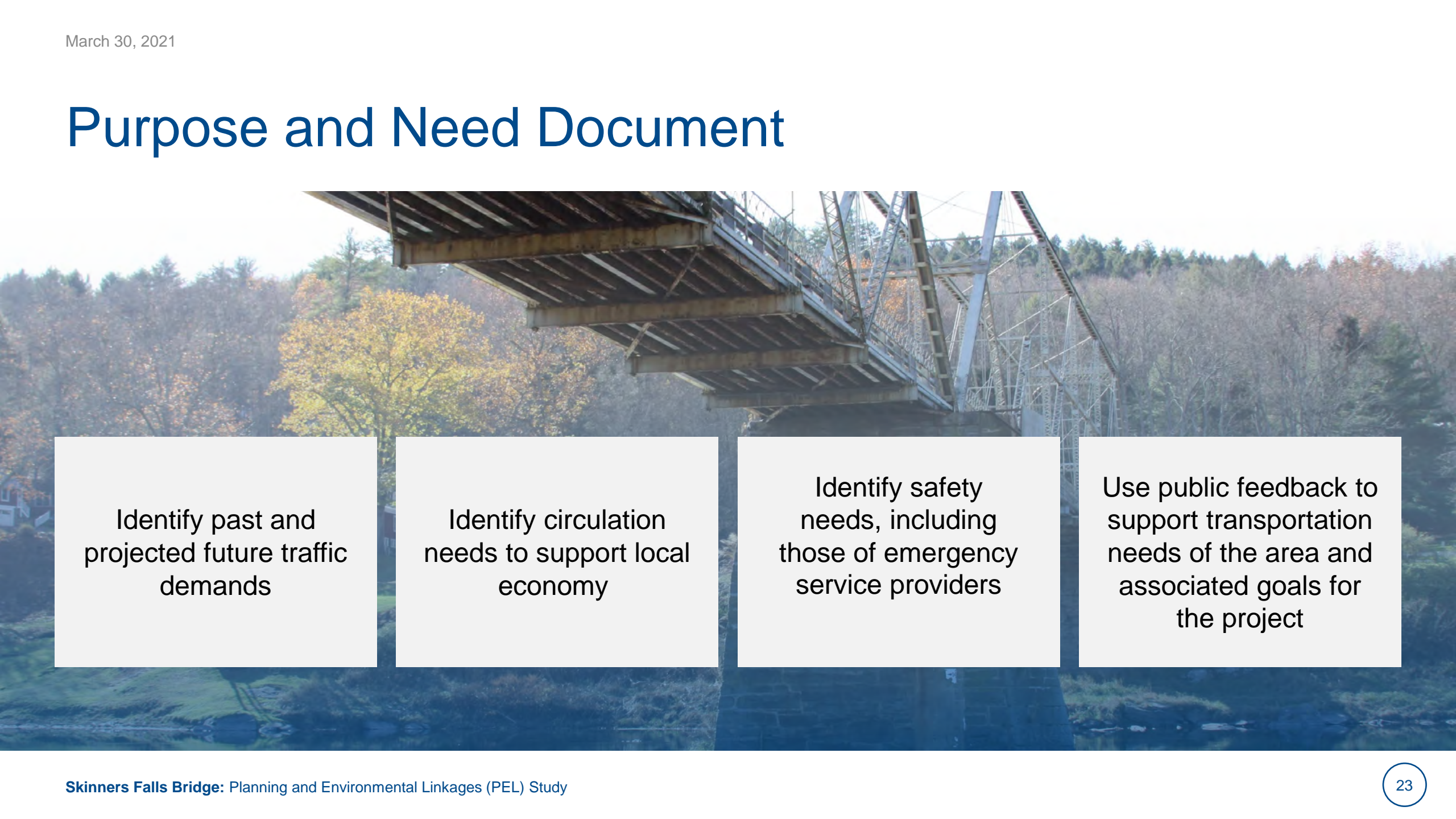


Meeting materials posted on PennDOT District 4-0 website



Role of Purpose and Need

Purpose and Need Document



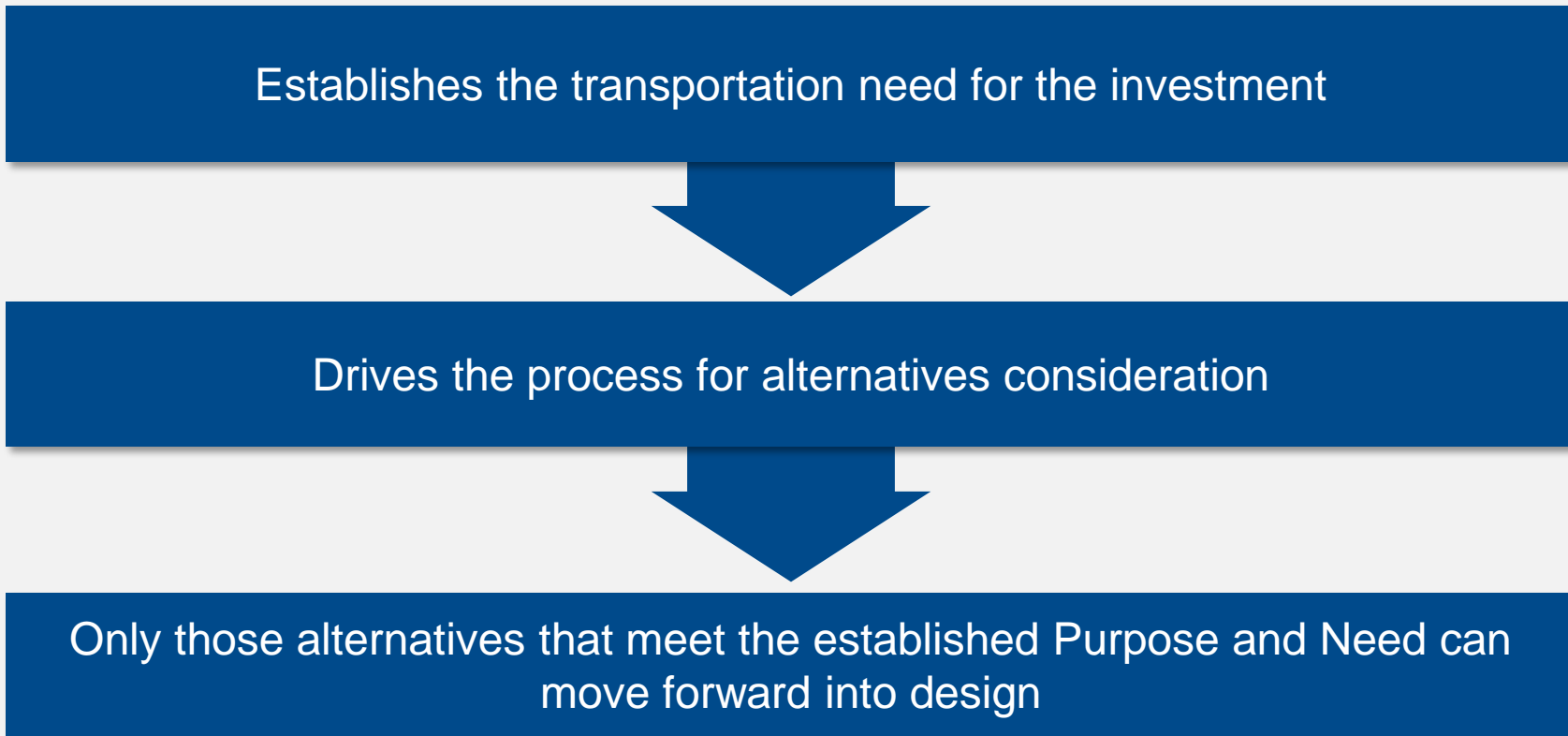
Identify past and projected future traffic demands

Identify circulation needs to support local economy

Identify safety needs, including those of emergency service providers

Use public feedback to support transportation needs of the area and associated goals for the project

Purpose & Need Shapes Alternatives

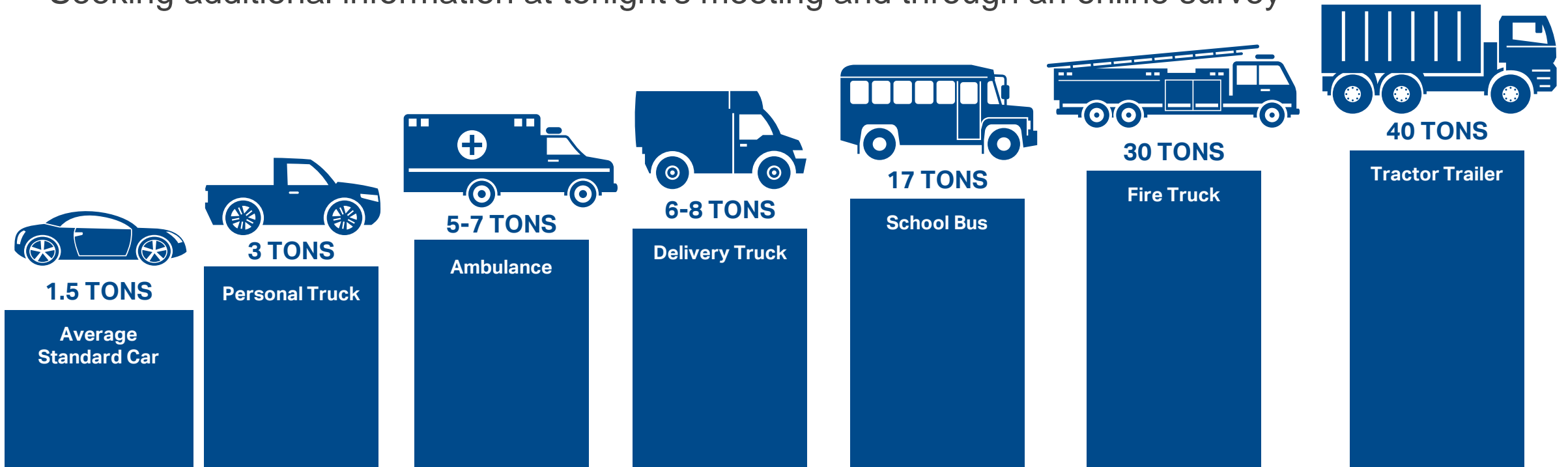




Local Needs

Local Needs

- Held first Project Advisory Committee meeting in February 2021 to discuss local needs
- Project Advisory Committee felt that a transportation connection is needed that can serve all vehicle types
- Seeking additional information at tonight's meeting and through an online survey



Project Advisory Committee Feedback

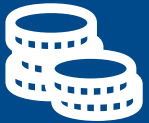
Roadway Connections

- Past usage was low due to width and condition – not lack of demand
- Usage by overweight vehicles demonstrates need for unrestricted weights
- Emergency response times have increased since closure
- Need to reinstate bridge connection with:
 - Two travel lanes
 - Full weight access



Project Advisory Committee Feedback

Economic Needs



Economic generators on both sides of river



Deliveries, local commerce, and circulation require full weight access



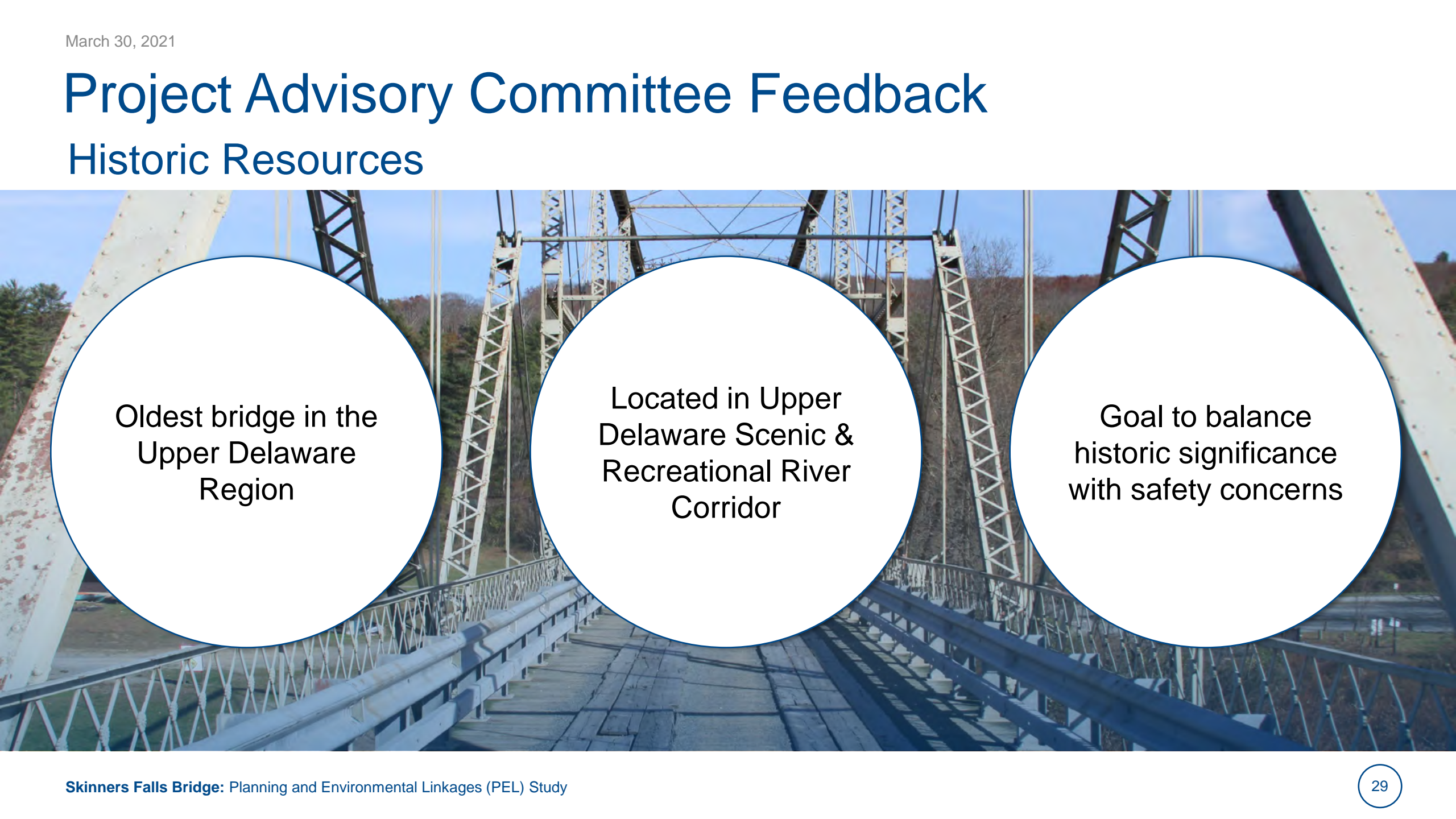
RV and trailer access needed to support tourism base



Improved bridge could enhance tourism economy and support increased traffic needs due to increased migration and visitation due to COVID

Project Advisory Committee Feedback

Historic Resources



Oldest bridge in the
Upper Delaware
Region

Located in Upper
Delaware Scenic &
Recreational River
Corridor

Goal to balance
historic significance
with safety concerns



Next Steps

Status and Next Steps

Survey open until
April 23, 2021

Draft Purpose
and Need

Final Project
Advisory
Committee
meeting
anticipated in
May

Purpose
and Need
available for
public review in
June

Finalize study
document,
considering
comments
received

Begin design
and
environmental
review process



For More Information

Project Website

[https://www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-4/PublicMeetings/Wayne County/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.penndot.gov/RegionalOffices/district-4/PublicMeetings/Wayne%20County/Pages/default.aspx)

Project Hotline

(610) 234-5148 or Skinnersfallsbridge@aecom.com