PENNDOT FACES

RECORD BREAKING

FLOODS & SLIDE CHALLENGES

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Dear Colleagues and Customers,

It’s not often that we get to use words like “unprecedented” – but for the summer months and into the fall of 2018, our rainfall was just that - unprecedented.

I, first and foremost, want to acknowledge the fine, though oft-times back-breaking work of our PennDOT teams in tackling the destruction caused by the resulting flooding of our roadways.

For thousands of us, “taking the road less-travelled” became a daily occurrence, and we thank you for your patience. The decision to close a road is ultimately always in the safest interest of our customers, though, we’re sure, seldom appreciated as such.

While our roadways suffered, our bridges were up for the challenge. In fact, since January 2015, there are 819 more state-maintained bridges in good condition, the number in poor condition has dropped by 1,044, and the number in fair condition has increased by 95.

We’ve also unveiled our new “Bridge Conditions” map at www.projects.penndot.gov where you can view conditions of state-and-locally-owned bridges. Try it out by going to Bridges under Projects and Programs at www.penndot.gov.

So again, my thanks to our amazing PennDOT staffers for answering the call to address this year’s relentless weather challenges.

Leslie S. Richards
Secretary of Transportation
Much of Pennsylvania has seen the wettest year on record, resulting in significant amounts of flooding and landslides throughout the state. As a result, in mid-September, PennDOT was estimating more than $105 million in damages to state-maintained roads and bridges — the highest cost in any single year in the past 10 years.

We compiled some of the many stunning images captured by our team members across the state into a summary of this year’s conditions.
To help prepare for future extreme weather, the department conducted an Extreme Weather Vulnerability Study, which analyzed past PennDOT flooding-related data, traffic volumes, federal and national weather and flooding resources, and more. It also identified roadways susceptible to flooding based on that data.

The study also projected potential future flooding vulnerabilities in Allegheny, Delaware, and Lycoming counties. The completed study was shared with planning partners, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), federal highway officials, and department staff for reference in maintenance and project work, and to complement the data PennDOT already uses in planning future projects. The next phase of the study will identify potential mitigation strategies to use on projects in Allegheny and Delaware counties, made possible with state and federal matching funds.
Governor Tom Wolf visited Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, to survey storm damages this summer
Route 3032 Slide, Centre County, District 2

Photo by: Brian Pollick
Route 3003
(Stenton Avenue),
Montgomery County
Route 209 (Port Carbon Borough), Schuylkill County

Photo by: Kevin Matthews
Interstate 81 South, (Ravine), Schuylkill County

Photo by: Kamlesh Ashar

Cacoosing Creek, flooding Fritztown Road, Berks County

Photo by: Bruce Bubser
Route 202, Montgomery County

Bairdstown Bridge, Indiana and Westmoreland Counties

Photo by: John Clancy

Photo by: Kevin Rhea
Kreutz Creek Road, York County