

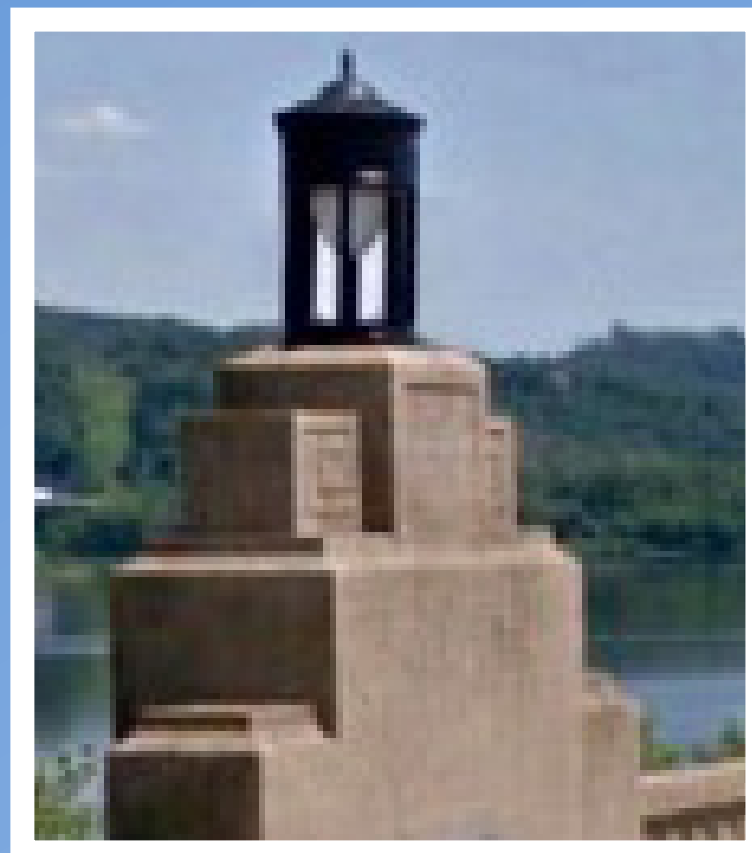
# COLUMBIA-WRIGHTSVILLE BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Veterans Memorial Bridge over the Susquehanna River

## MAYFLIES AND LIGHTING

### BENEFITS

- ▶ Mayflies are indicators of good water quality in the river
- ▶ In 2013 historic replicated lighting was installed on the bridge, replacing the 1970's high mast arm lighting

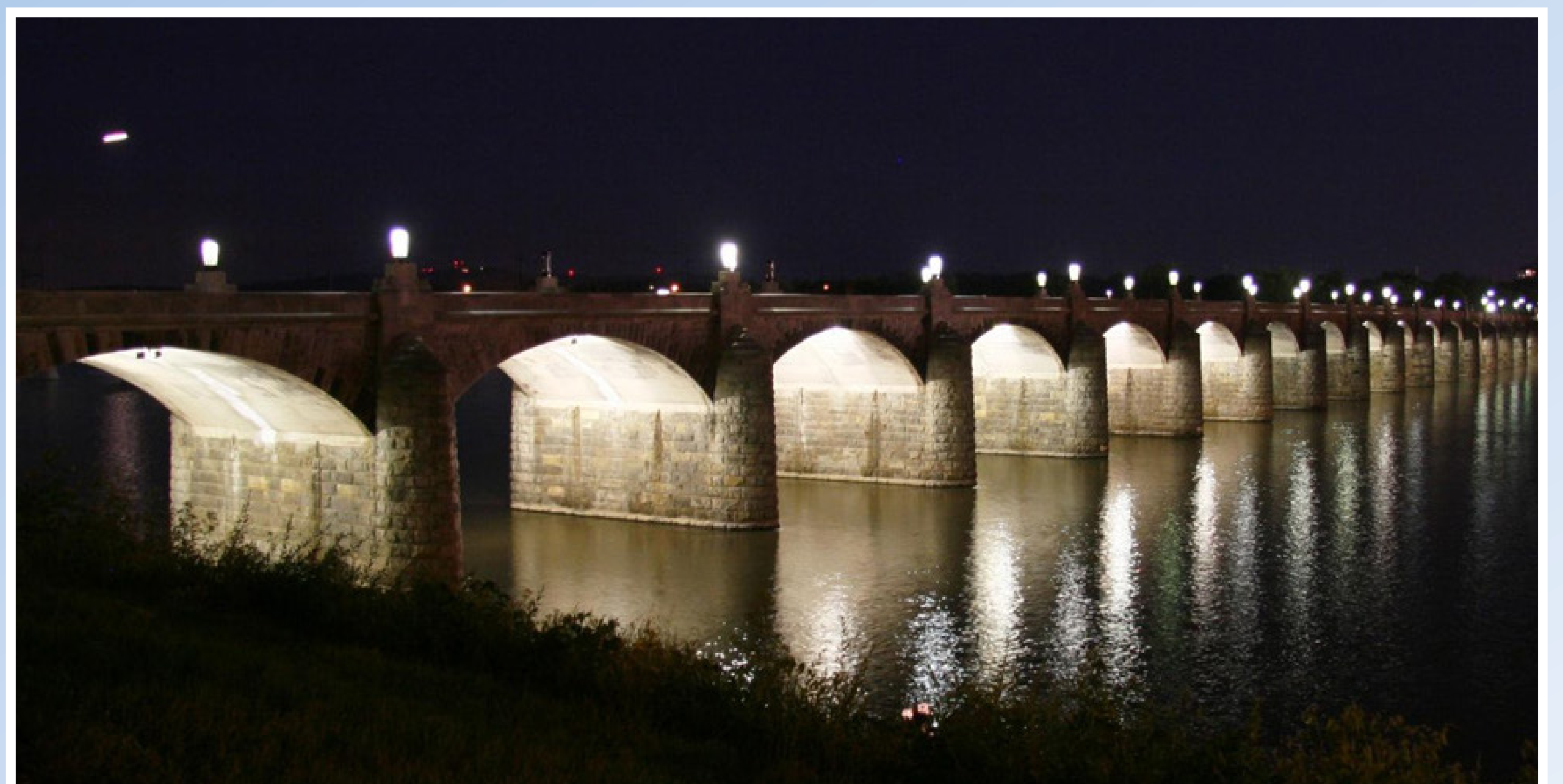


### THE PROBLEM

- ▶ An unforeseen effect was luring swarms of mayflies to the bridge's above deck lighting inhibiting visibility between late June and early August
- ▶ The mayflies intensity resulted in vehicle crashes due to slick surfaces, became a general nuisance to all modes of travel, and created maintenance issues
- ▶ An interim solution has been turning the lights out during the mayfly hatching season, limiting visibility for users between dusk and dawn

### POTENTIAL SOLUTION

- ▶ Adding bridge under-lighting may prevent mayflies from swarming the bridge's above-deck lighting and will also enhance the historic bridge's aesthetics for its river towns
- ▶ A study is progressing to determine if the addition of lighting under the bridge will sufficiently attract the mayflies below the deck, allowing the existing above-deck lighting to remain on each summer. The study will identify if the added lighting benefit supports the investment as a more ideal safety solution.



Example of Under-lighting at the Harrisburg City Market Street Bridge



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration



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