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Shuster Announces Grant to Preserve the Historic Academia-Pomeroy Bridge in Juniata County

\$48,000 Grant from the Department of Transportation

Washington, D.C. –Congressman **Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration has approved a \$48,000 grant to preserve the Academia-Pomeroy Covered Bridge in Juniata County.

“The Academia-Pomeroy Covered Bridge is an excellent example of our state’s heritage,” Shuster said. “Pennsylvania is renowned for its historic covered bridges and this is the longest bridge of its kind still standing. I am pleased that this grant will help preserve this wonderful structure for the benefit of future generations.”

Built in 1902, the Academia-Pomeroy Covered Bridge is the longest remaining covered bridge in Pennsylvania. The bridge spans the Tuscarora Creek in Beale and Spruce Townships and is owned by the Juniata Historical Society. The rehabilitation of the bridge will include dismantling the structure on site to evaluate its structural integrity. The bridge’s structure will be improved with new materials as needed, restoring the bridge to its former glory. Consulting engineers from P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., of Hollidaysburg will oversee the project.

“We have been working very closely with the Juniata County Historical Society on funding this project for several years. Congressman Bill Shuster not only expressed his support for this important preservation project, he personally helped to secure necessary funding to make this project a reality,” said Marty Malone, the Client Services Director with P. Joseph Lehman, Inc. “We are very appreciative of our congressman’s vision and ability to get things like this accomplished.”

The federal grant is one part of a larger effort to rehabilitate the bridge. The overall project is expected to cost \$1.2 million dollars and will be funded through a mixture of funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society, and private donors.

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