

BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

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Press Release

Contact: Mr. Joe Lehman, Jr., P.E. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Phone: (814)695.7500 11:00 AM EDT, JULY 18, 2006

**BEDFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS UNVEIL COUNTY-WIDE MUNICIPAL BRIDGE
INSPECTION PROGRAM.**

BEDFORD, PA - THROUGH A UNANIMOUS VOTE, BEDFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WILL OFFER COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN COUNTY BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM. In their regularly scheduled meeting today, Bedford County Commissioners described their most recent County-Wide Municipal Bridge Inspection Program. This program, according to Steven K. Howsare, Chairman of the Board, is being offered to all municipalities within the County who own bridges requiring regular inspections. All publicly owned bridges twenty feet or greater in length are required by federal law to be inspected at a minimum every two years. Municipalities are typically responsible for twenty percent (20%) of the costs associated with these inspections. Under the new County-Wide Program, participating municipalities will no longer be required to fund the twenty percent share. This twenty percent share will be paid by the County. This program will be managed by Bedford County engineer, P. JOSEPH LEHMAN, Inc.,

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Consulting Engineers of Hollidaysburg, PA. According to Joe Lehman, Jr., P.E., President of the firm, municipalities will receive a form in the mail on which they can indicate their participation in the program. According to Lehman, "Participating municipalities save the 20% cost they used to pay for inspections under this program, and there is no cost for municipalities to join this program. Municipalities can save time, since they don't need to enter into separate contracts for inspections, and they don't have to do reimbursement requests for the 80% state funded portion of the inspection." In addition, participating municipalities will not be required to prepare checks for inspection costs. Through this program, inspection standards will be consistent across the County. Commissioners Howsare, Faupel and Shaffer all agreed that this program can benefit the municipalities across the County. For more information on the County Wide Bridge Inspection Program, please call Mr. Joseph Lehman, Jr., P.E. President of P. JOSEPH LEHMAN, Inc., Consulting Engineers at 814-695-7500.

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