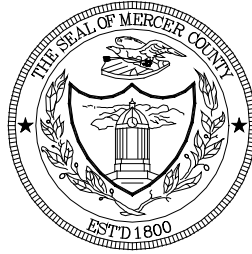


COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Ann Coleman, Chair
William Finley Jr.
Timothy M. McGonigle



BRIDGE DEPARTMENT

104 Mortensen Road
Greenville, PA 16125
Phone (724) 662-4977

COUNTY OF MERCER

July 21, 2021 *(via email and certified mail)*

Liberty Township Supervisors
2873 Mercer-Butler Pike
Grove City, PA 16127

Re: BMS Structure Number 43 7214 0327 3209, Bridge Key Number 26183
Mercer County Bridge No. 3209 on East Valcourt Road over Unnamed Tributary to Black Run
Bridge Closed

Dear Supervisors:

The above referenced bridge was closed to all traffic on July 21, 2025 in accordance with Section 4902(a) of the PA Vehicle Code. This closure was done in the interest of public safety and is necessary because the main bridge members (culvert) are deficient and cannot safely carry the lowest legal load of 3 tons. **Please inform affected residents, local services (such as emergency service providers, disposal services, public transportation, etc.) and anyone else that may be impacted by this restriction.**

Section 4902(e) of the PA Vehicle Code provides requirements for the erection of signs. The Mercer County Bridge Department will maintain "Bridge Closed" signs within 25 feet of each end of the bridge. Per 4902(e), *"Local authorities shall also place an advance informational sign at the intersection nearest each end of the restricted bridge"*. There are no standard requirements for the type of sign/installation at the advanced locations, so the Mercer County Bridge Department will place temporary portable "Bridge Out – Local Traffic Only" informational signs within the roadway. **The municipality shall determine what is preferred for the local roadway system, then acquire any materials needed and maintain those installations.** For example, some municipalities have simply chosen to erect "No Outlet" signs; the county bridge crew can assist with such an installation, but the municipality will need to provide the sign.

The county recognizes that bridge closure has an effect on the municipality but please understand that the county is not responsible for the roadway system. Specifically, related to the reported length of roadways for liquid fuels fund allocations: *"If the road is a dead end, it must have cul de sac (turnaround) at the end with a minimum 40' radius."* The Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance does not apply to bridge closure; closing a bridge on an existing road would not trigger SALDO requirements. The municipality must decide if turnarounds need to be built or consider other alternatives.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

BDE:

- c: Mercer County GIS and E-911 Center *(via email only)*
- Mercer County Conservation District *(via email only)*
- PennDOT *(via email and BMS/EDMS)*
- PA State Police, Mercer Barracks *(via USPS only)*
- Grove City Post Office *(via telephone and USPS)*
- Grove City School District *(via telephone and USPS)*

Sincerely,
Mercer County Bridge Department

Bradley D. Elder, P.E., CBSI
Nationally Certified Bridge Inspector