REVERSING 80 YEARS OF FLOODING

“REVERSING 80 YEARS OF FLOODING

PA Route 926 Over Brandywine Creek Bridge Replacement | Chester County, Pa.

“This new bridge will help BOOST LOCAL ECONOMIES AND BRING ENORMOUS BENEFITS to thousands of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians on both sides of Brandywine Creek.”

— George Dunheimer, PennDOT Assistant District Executive for Construction

Motorists endured the flood-prone PA Route 926 Bridge over Brandywine Creek since it was built in 1937. Significant rain flooded the bridge’s low approaches up to nine times each year, bringing 13,200 vehicles per day to a halt. As a result, drivers converged on a nearby substandard, 18-foot-wide bridge. The narrow detour created massive gridlock, adding as much as three hours to the trip. Trapped in this bottleneck, residents worried about access to emergency services, parents struggled to get their children home from school, and drivers grew increasingly frustrated.

RELIEF FOR A FLOOD-PRONE COMMUNITY

The reconstructed $3.8 million 926 Bridge is a beacon of change. The crossing is now designed to withstand a 100-year-storm event. Engineers rebuilt and raised 1,700 feet of the roadway approaches to make them less susceptible to flooding; replaced the nearby culvert over Hadley Run with twin 48-foot-span arch concrete culverts; and realigned 300 feet of creek to connect with Route 926.

The complex solution was carefully designed without impacting three historic properties that flank the bridge — including the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark honoring a significant land battle of the American Revolution.

The project team implemented a unique financial incentive/disincentive contract provision to complete construction one year ahead of the original schedule and meet the community’s immediate need for reliable access across Brandywine Creek. Under an aggressive six-month timeline, the project team finished seven days early, solving a crucial flooding challenge while improving safety and mobility.