State Project: 42-45-16.21

Public Meeting

Pickens School

1 Panther Place, Pickens, West Virginia

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 – 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is conducting this informational public workshop to discuss project alternatives for Helvetia Bridge on County Route (CR) 45 in Helvetia, Randolph County. This meeting complies with the public involvement requirements of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) and Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*. You are encouraged to examine the display boards, including the temporary detour alternatives, and discuss the project with members of the study team.

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to replace the superstructure for the existing Helvetia Bridge which carries CR 45 over the Left Fork of the Right Fork Buckhannon River in Helvetia. The existing bridge was constructed in 1985. Due to its deteriorating condition, WVDOH proposes to replace the existing bridge's superstructure and place scour counter measures on the existing abutments.

Two detour alternatives are being explored. Alternative 1 is a temporary detour to be placed upstream of the existing structure to maintain traffic during construction. This detour will be one-lane and bi-directional traffic will alternate via posted stop signs. Alternative 2 will utilize existing county routes to detour around the structure. Alternative 2 will increase passenger traffic travel time by 49 minutes and will increase truck traffic travel time by 1 hour and 32 minutes. Based on the work proposed, Alternative 1 is the preferred detour alternative for this project.



Purpose & Need

The purpose of this project is to provide a structurally adequate and safe crossing for CR 45 (Pickens Road) over the Left Fork of the Right Fork Buckhannon River by addressing the existing bridge's structural deficiencies while maintaining reasonable access for the traveling public during construction.

The WVDOH conducted a routine inspection of the bridge, and the structure is rated in poor condition, with widespread moderate or isolated major defects affecting strength and/or performance of the components. There is heavy scour along Abutment 1 (western abutment) footing with some minor undermining. The poor condition has resulted in the load posting of the bridge on December 16, 2025.

Located on CR 45 over the Left Fork of the Right Fork Buckhannon River, the project area sits along a tangent section of roadway. The existing detour routes significantly increase travel time. As such, there is a need to safely maintain traffic through a temporary detour area.

The project is necessary to provide a crossing that better meets current structural, load-carrying, and safety standards.

Helvetia Community

Helvetia Bridge is located within the community of Helvetia and within the Helvetia Village Historic District which has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1978. Helvetia was established in 1869 by Swiss immigrants who settled in this remote mountain valley of Randolph County. Helvetia is significant not only for its historic buildings, but as a cohesive rural cultural landscape exemplifying Swiss-American cultural preservation and longstanding community traditions and gatherings. The river crossing currently served by the existing project bridge has historically served as part of the primary circulation network within Helvetia, connecting residential, business, agricultural, and community gathering areas. "The Meadow", directly southeast of Helvetia Bridge, is an open landscape used for events, such as the annual Helvetia Community Fair.



Tentative Project Schedule
Helvetia Bridge

Informational Workshop Public Meeting ..... November 17, 2026
Public Meeting Comments Due.....December 17, 2026
Estimated Environmental Clearance ..... Spring 2027
Estimated Right-of-Way Activities .....February 2027-February 2028
Estimated Construction ..... February 2028-November 2028

Thank you for attending our meeting!

Your interest in the project is greatly appreciated.

Questions or Comments? Contact:

Comments are due by Thursday, December 17, 2026

***Via* regular mail:**
Engineering Division
West Virginia Division of Highways
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 5, Room 920
Charleston, WV 25301

***Via* Website**: https://transportation.wv.gov/helvetia-bridge

HELVETIA BRIDGE PROJECT

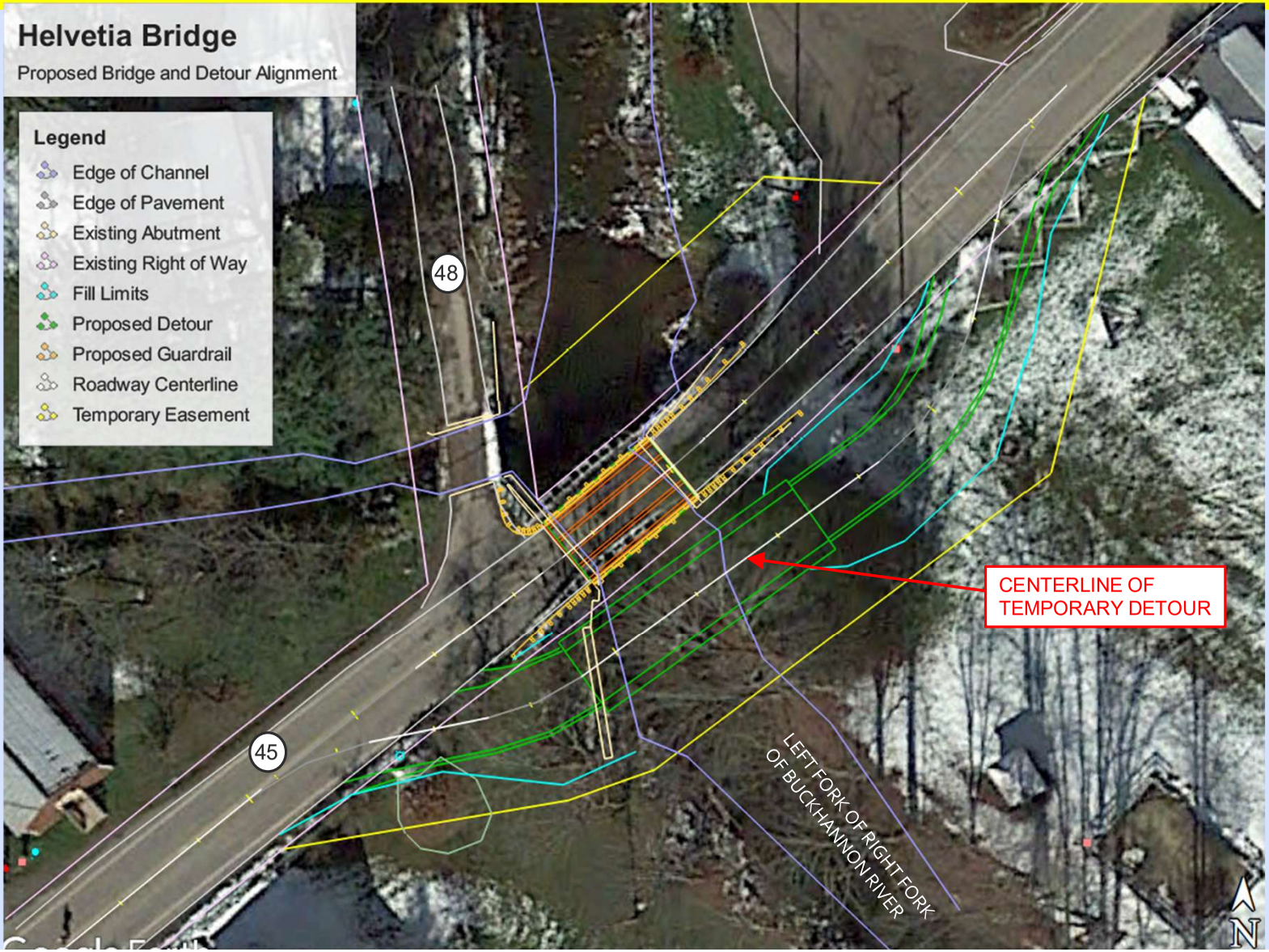
Informational Open House – Public Meeting



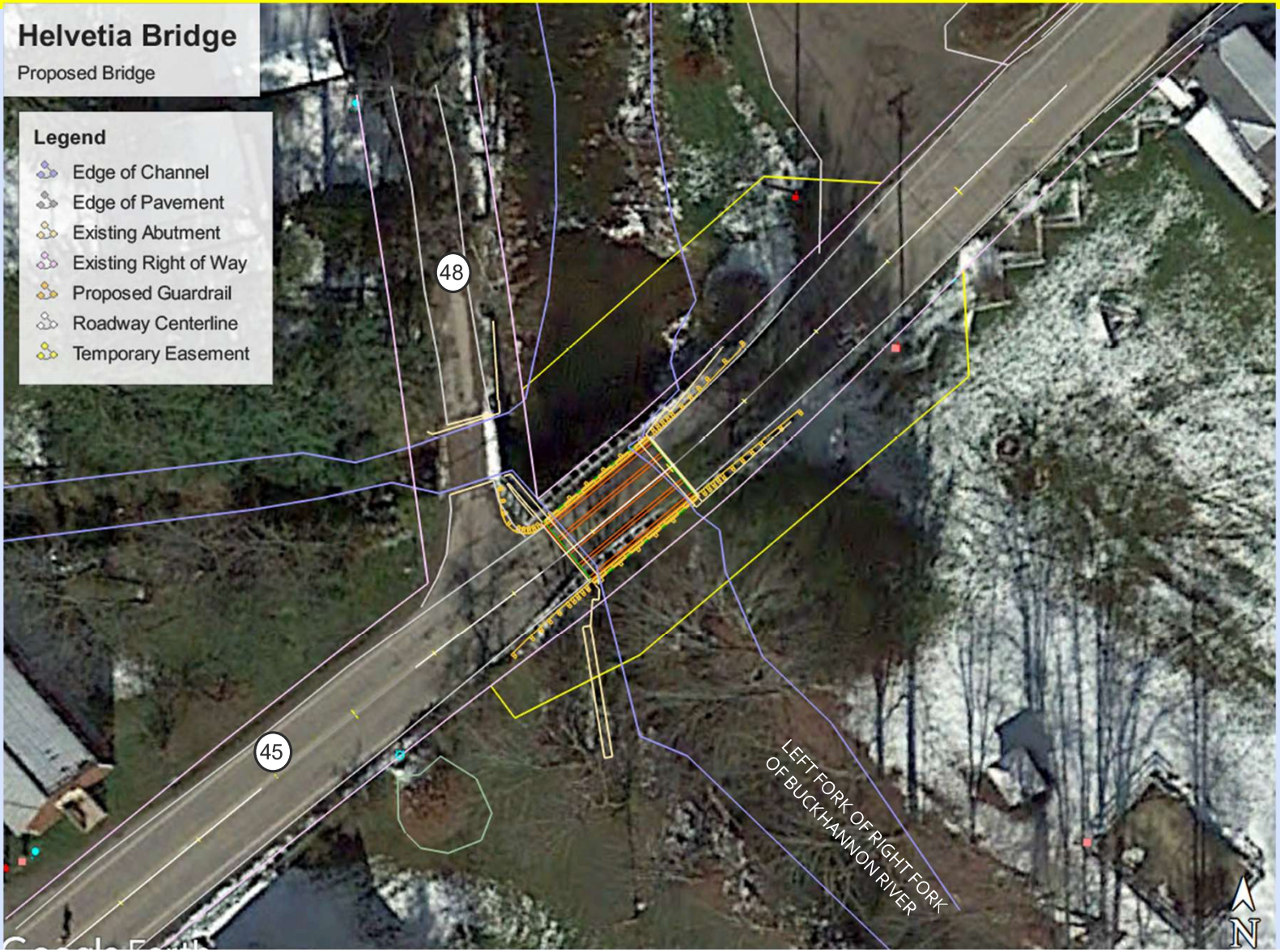
Bridge Location in the Town of Helvetia, WV



ALTERNATIVE 1- REPLACEMENT WITH UPSTREAM TEMPORARY DETOUR

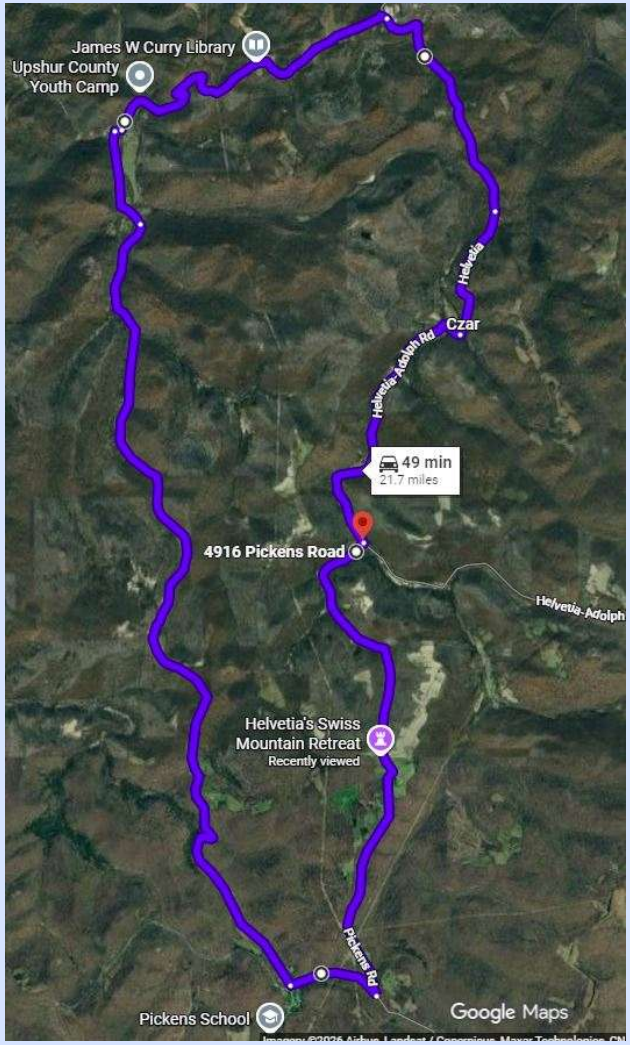


ALTERNATIVE 2-REPLACEMENT BRIDGE USING EXISTING ROUTE DETOURS

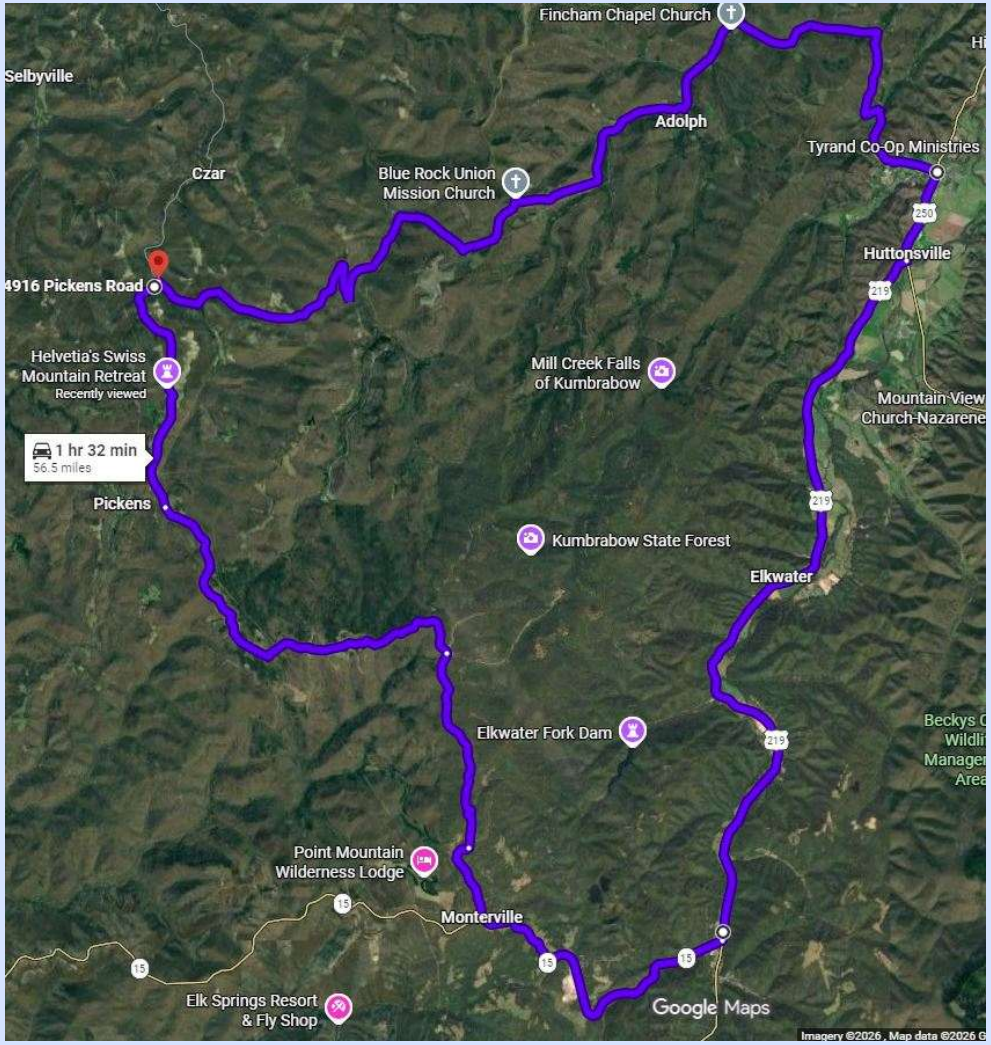


ALTERNATIVE 2- EXISTING ROUTE DETOURS

Passenger Traffic Detour



Truck Traffic Detour



Schedule

TASK	DATE
Public Meeting	November 17, 2026
Comments Deadline	December 17, 2026
Environmental Clearance	Est. Spring 2027
Right-of-Way Activities	Est. February 2027 – February 2028
Construction	Est. February 2028 – November 2028

Comments

Comments are welcome as you visit the displays around the room. Complete comment sheets can be:

Placed in the comment box

Mailed to the WVDOH:

West Virginia Department of Transportation, Engineering Division
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Building 5, Room 920
Charleston, WV 25301

Comments can also be submitted via the WVDOH's website at **https://transportation.wv.gov/helvetia-bridge**

Please submit comments on or before
Thursday, December 17, 2026

Engineering Division
West Virginia Division of Highways
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 5, Room 920
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

DATE: **Tuesday, November 17, 2026**
LOCATION: **Pickens School**
SUBJECT: **Informational Workshop Public Meeting**
PROJECT: **Helvetia Bridge**
State Project: 42-45-16.21
Helvetia, Randolph County, WV

COMMENTS DUE BY **Thursday, December 17, 2026**

Please consider the following comments:

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NAME:

ADDRESS:

ORGANIZATION (IF ANY):

How did you hear about the Public Meeting?

Project Information and Comment Sheets can be found online at our web page
https://transportation.wv.gov/agencies/highways/divisions/engineering/public-comments

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Place
Stamp
Here

Engineering Division
West Virginia Division of Highways
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Building 5, Room 920
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

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