

Neff Bridge (Huntingdon County)

“The Neff Bridge was a success because the community saved it.”

Jonathan Daily, PennDOT’s Historian in District 9 (Hollidaysburg)



Neff Bridge Prior to Rehabilitation

The Neff Bridge is a metal truss bridge built in 1889 by the Pittsburgh Bridge Company and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge, also known as Juniata River Bridge #5, is located on SR 4005, southeast of Alexandria, Porter Township, in Huntingdon County, and is also one of the last remaining Pratt Through-Truss Steel Bridges in the county. Because inspections and evaluations indicated that the bridge was still structurally sound in 2009, it did not require extensive rehabilitation and was a good candidate for preservation.

Perhaps the most important factor that led to this successful preservation project was public support and community involvement. The community rallied to save Neff Bridge thanks to fond personal connections and pride many residents felt for it. They decorated the bridge with wreaths and included it in the annual holiday tour. Many individuals and local organizations got involved to save the bridge, and voiced their opinions and support at public meetings. Some of those organizations included the Hartslog Heritage Museum, the Huntingdon County Historical Society, the Huntingdon County Planning Office, and the Juniata Clean Water Partnership. In the end, public support helped demonstrate to PennDOT and the Federal Highway Administration that rehabilitating and keeping Neff Bridge was a reasonable and prudent solution to local transportation needs, and the result was a preservation effort we can all be proud of.



Neff Bridge After Rehabilitation