

Hawk Falls Bridge

Carbon County, Pennsylvania



In 1953, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) announced its plan for the Northeastern Extension, a 110-mile route from Montgomery County to Scranton in Lackawanna County.

The engineering firm of Modjeski & Masters were awarded the design contract for the Hawks Falls Bridge. The bridge was constructed between 1955 and 1957 over Mud Run and the associated deep, natural gorge.



The Hawk Falls Bridge is 738-feet long and the superstructure was made up of five spans: three continuous haunched Warren deck trusses with span lengths of 168, 280 and 168 feet and two secondary simple stringer spans of 68 and 49 feet.

The Hawk Falls Bridge is one of the tallest bridges on the Pennsylvania Turnpike system, with its road surface approximately 195 feet above Mud Run.



The Hawk Falls Bridge was determined to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on April 7, 2005 under Criterion C for Engineering.

Hawk Falls Bridge is a significant example of a mid-twentieth-century bridge engineering that deviated from the standard design structures used by the PTC.

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The existing bridge is scheduled for replacement because it is nearing the end of its design service life and considered functionally obsolete due to lack of roadway shoulders.

Turnpike traffic will be traveling over the new Hawk Falls bridge in the summer of 2024 and the entire project will be completed in late 2025.



The replacement Hawk Falls Bridge will be a 720'-long steel structure featuring a 480' deck arch span flanked by four 60' deck plate girder spans.

As with the current bridge, the new bridge will carry two traffic lanes in each direction, but it will also provide 12' wide outside shoulders and 6' wide median shoulders.



Three welded, steel box arch ribs will be utilized that spans the deep Mud Run Valley located within Hickory Run State Park.

As such it will incorporate a unique, eye-catching "skewback arch" design to create a Signature Bridge to compliment the Turnpike's ongoing improvement program for the busy Northeast Extension (I-476).