

Keeping LANCASTER Current

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FYI

PENNSYLVANIA RESPONDS IN THE WAKE OF MINNESOTA TRAGEDY -

The tragic collapse of the Interstate Highway bridge in Minnesota last week has again focused widespread attention on the condition of America's highway system.

The [Pennsylvania Highway Information Association](#) (PHIA) reports, [PennDOT](#) Secretary Allen Biehler immediately **ordered the inspection of the 54 bridges in Pennsylvania that are of similar design.** Of those 54 spans, **17 have been designated "structurally deficient,"** and Secretary Biehler put the inspection of those at the top of the list.

A structurally deficient bridge is safe, but in need of costly repairs or replacement to bring it to current standards.

PennDOT

In total, **Pennsylvania has about 6,000 structurally deficient bridges, more than any other state.** The term is used by the [Federal Highway Administration](#) to describe bridges with some level of deterioration. In some cases, PennDOT may have implemented restrictions on weight or speed, but the term does not necessarily mean that a bridge is unsafe.

Bridge Information

[List of state-owned structurally deficient bridges](#)

[List of Pennsylvania truss bridges similar to the Minneapolis bridge](#)

RESTORING PROSPERITY – THE STATE ROLE IN REVITALIZING AMERICA'S OLDER INDUSTRIAL CITIES

– A new [report](#) from [The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program](#). The report is part of a **broad campaign** with partners including [Smart Growth America](#), the [National Housing Institute](#), [PolicyLink](#), the [Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities](#), and the [Northeast-Midwest Institute](#), as well as with organizations in six states (NJ, MI, OH, PA, NY, and CT), **to shape a state and federal revitalization agenda** that transforms America's older industrial cities.

The evidence is clear. On the whole, America's central **cities are coming back.** Employment is up, populations are growing, and **many urban real estate markets are hotter than ever,** with **increasing numbers of young people, empty-nesters, and others choosing city life over the suburbs.**

INTERESTING ARTICLES

[Old tax could be put to new use](#)

- Some lawmakers want to use the Johnstown Flood Tax to help cash-strapped municipalities. Rep. Robert Freeman, D-Northampton, chairman of the House Local Government Committee, is drafting a bill that would provide a permanent funding source for municipalities with many tax-exempt properties.

[Speaker promotes new zoning approach](#)

- Zoning ordinances control myriad aspects of a new building, such as its purpose, height and setback. Yet, these rules are often silent when it comes to details that can make the difference between a structure that is an icon and one that is an eyesore. [Peter Katz](#) is on a mission to change that.

[DEVELOPERS MOVE IN ON PROTECTED FARMLAND](#)

- For 30 years, a farmland conservation program in Long Island was able to keep farmers farming land that was becoming increasingly valuable and sought by developers. But now, the land is being bought by developers and is not being farmed.

*Enabling informed growth management
decision-making for Lancaster County*

Call our office (717) 295-0755, or visit <http://www.hourglassfoundation.org>

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