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PENNDOT OPENS CONSTRUCTION BIDS ON DISTRICT 11'S FIRST ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROJECT

Pittsburgh – PennDOT announced today that bids for the Route 51 Beaver-Rochester Bridge Rehabilitation -- the first American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA, project to begin in District 11 -- were opened on Thursday, April 16.

The apparent low bidder for the Route 51 Bridge over the Beaver River in the boroughs of Beaver and Rochester, Beaver County, is Mascaro Contracting of Pittsburgh, with a low bid of \$9,997,497. Three other bids were received.

PennDOT will review the bid materials from Mascaro to verify the information that was submitted. If the information is complete and in order, construction will begin in 4 to 6 weeks.

The Route 51 Beaver Rochester Bridge is one of seven projects in PennDOT's three-county District 11 region being funded by ARRA. This project was not funded for construction, but because of ARRA funds, PennDOT was able to begin the project this year. Statewide, Pennsylvania is receiving more than \$1 billion for highway and bridge projects from the ARRA.

The Route 51 Beaver-Rochester Bridge project includes preservation activities, full painting, expansion dam and rocker bearing replacements and steel and concrete repairs. Five bridge/ramp structures are included in the project including three that are rated structurally deficient. The structural deficiency ratings will be removed when the project is completed in late 2010. Details on traffic restrictions will be released as the construction start approaches.

The main span of the Route 51 Beaver-Rochester Bridge crossing the Beaver River was constructed in 1963. The 8-span, 993-foot long, deck truss girder floor beam bridge underwent minor rehabilitation in 1991. The main spans over the river connect with another 127-foot section, 3-span multi-girder bridge built in 1958.

Approximately 5,361 vehicles use the bridge on an average day.

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