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PennDOT finishes work on bridge near Douglassville

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PennDOT has finished work on one of the two bridges on River Bridge Road near Douglassville and is starting on the other, department officials said Monday.

The \$8.4 million project to replace one of the spans and repair the other began in May.

The bridge that was just replaced crosses Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks in Amity Township. The one being repaired crosses the Schuylkill River between Amity and Union townships. Both were considered structurally deficient.

The crossings are on a half-mile stretch of road that connects Routes 422 and 724.

The work has cut off the connector, which sees an average of 4,576 per day, according to PennDOT. Local traffic can still access the road but it's closed to through traffic. A nearby crossing in Birdsboro that also connects the two highways is also under construction.

Crews recently finished replacing the 91-year-old, steel girder railroad bridge with a concrete box span. They also added new approaches, sidewalks and access to the Thun Trail. The new bridge is 164 feet long, 83 feet shorter than the old one.

Work will now start on repairing the 615-foot river bridge. The 62-year-old steel beam bridge will get a new deck, beams and approaches.

PennDOT expects to finish the entire project by July 2015, unless work is held up by bad weather.
