

Route 202 Parkway Construction Update December 2010/January 2011

Paving on Widened Areas of DeKalb Pike, Welsh Road; Bristol Road Widening Completed, County Line Widening Begins

Paving is ongoing in widened areas along Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) and Route 63 (Welsh Road) at the southern end of the Route 202 Parkway in Montgomery County while bridge and utility crews remain active on the Parkway sections and companion projects in Bucks County as PennDOT's investment in traffic relief for the Route 202 Corridor progresses steadily toward completion in 2012.

Following is a summary of progress that has been made on building the Route 202 Parkway along with the ongoing construction and expected traffic impacts, by section, running from south to north along the nine-mile corridor through Lower Gwynedd, Upper Gwynedd and Montgomery townships in Montgomery County, and Warrington and Doylestown townships in Bucks County.

Section 65N – Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) Improvements and Southern Parkway Connector

Two of the three layers of paving (base and binder courses) are in place on the new connector to the Parkway that is under construction between Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) and Route 63 (Welsh Road), and in most of the widened area on the east side of Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) south of the connector.

Construction to widen Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) to four lanes with center turn lanes also continues on the east side from the connector north to approaching Knapp Road. With storm water drainage in place, the widened roadway's pavement construction will begin with the placement and grading of the stone sub-base once curbs are constructed this month. Paving will be done as weather conditions permit.

On the west side of Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) between lower Swedesford Road and Hancock Road, curbing is in place along with the base course of paving. Utility work also continues beneath sections of existing Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) and in the shoulder on the west side of the roadway from Hancock Road to Knapp Road.

The Route 63 (Welsh Road) leg of the busy intersection also is being widened, as is the north side of Route 63 (Welsh Road) between Route 202 and Stump Road. Once curbing is in place, the contractor plans to pave the widened area – conditions permitting – from Route 202 (DeKalb Pike) to Stump Road.

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Traffic Restrictions

- Weekday lane closures, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Route 202 on both sides of Route 63;
- Periodic traffic stoppages, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Route 63 east of Route 202;
- No left turn lanes in both directions on Route 63 at Route 202;
- No left turn from Route 202 south to Route 63; and
- Swedesford Road (upper) closed permanently to through traffic.

Section 701 – Parkway construction between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 463 (Horsham Road)

Route 63 (Welsh Road) to Knapp Road

Route 202 Parkway construction is virtually finished in this section. Lane markings are in place, signs are up, the shared-use path is finished and most of the landscaping has been planted. Knapp Road has been widened approaching the Parkway intersection, but construction barriers will remain in place until the Parkway opens to traffic in mid-2012.

Knapp Road to Route 309

Lane markings, signs, the shared-use path, the ramp to and from Route 309 (Bethlehem Pike) and traffic signals are in place in this completed section as well. The Trailhead Parking Area at Route 309 (Bethlehem Pike) also is nearly finished. Construction barriers will remain in place until the Parkway opens to traffic in mid-2012.

Route 309 to Route 463 (Horsham Road)

About half of this finished section of Parkway is partially open to traffic between Route 463 (Horsham Road) and Costco Drive/Terrace Way to provide access to and from General Hancock Boulevard as well as the adjacent commercial and residential areas. The rest of the finished Parkway in this area will remain closed. Construction barriers will remain in place on Horsham Road, Costco Drive and the open portion of the Parkway until the entire Parkway opens to traffic in mid-2012.

Route 463 (Horsham Road) to Parkway Section 711

Widening continues on Route 463 (Horsham Road) at its intersection with, and approaches to, the Parkway. Paving on Horsham Road is virtually completed. Additional work – final paving, line striping, signals, signs and landscaping – remains to be completed on the short section of Parkway north of Route 463 (Horsham Road).

Traffic Restrictions

- Occasional weekday lane closures, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Route 463 (Horsham Road).

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Companion Project Section MW1 – Route 463 (Horsham Road) Widening

The roadway portion of the project to widen Route 463 (Horsham Road) to four lanes with a center turn lane between North Wales Road and General Hancock Boulevard has wrapped up. Cleanup and signal adjustments will be done this month to complete the project by year's end.

Section 711 – Parkway construction between Route 463 (Horsham Road) and Pickertown Roads

Route 463 (Horsham Road) to County Line Road

Crews continue construction on two bridges over small streams in this section. Storm water drainage has been installed between Route 463 (Horsham Road) and the bridges. Bulk excavation from the bridge north to County Line Road will resume next spring.

County Line Road to Route 152 (Limekiln Pike)

The bridge over Mill Creek, located just north of the permanently-closed Detweiler Road, is finished. Construction has started on a nearby arch culvert, where footers are now in place.

All utility work on cross streets in this area has been completed, including installation of a water main along Route 152 (Limekiln Pike) between the Parkway and Stump Road. Excavation related to Parkway construction continues along Route 152 (Limekiln Pike) and Upper State Road.

Traffic Restrictions

- **Periodic flagger-controlled lane closures, weekdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Route 152 (Limekiln Pike) and Upper State Road.**
- **Detweiler Road closed permanently.**

Route 152 (Limekiln Pike) to Pickertown Road

Berms are in place on the east side of the Parkway, and storm water basins are in place. Blasting to loosen rock and related bulk excavation will resume next spring. A water main has been installed between Billingsley Drive and the Parkway.

Companion Project Section WD1 – County Line Road Widening

Crews have started site clearing and underground utility work and they are soon expected to begin relocating overhead utility lines and excavation in this work area. Major construction to widen and reconstruct County Line Road between Route 202 and Stump Road will start early in 2011 as weather conditions permit.

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Section 721 – Parkway construction between Pickertown Road and Route 611

Pickertown Road to Bristol Road

Crews have completed the majority of clearing work in this area. Bulk excavation is expected to continue through the winter as conditions permit. Work also continues on the Bristol Road Trailhead Parking area.

Widening on Bristol Road between Upper State and Stump roads at the approaches to the Parkway is mostly completed. The detour was lifted in late November.

Bristol Road to Almshouse Road

Construction continues on the abutments and piers for the large bridge over the Neshaminy Creek. Work also continues on the bridge over Almshouse Road. A pre-cast arch culvert is in place over an unnamed branch of Neshaminy Creek south of Almshouse Road.

Excavation continues for the mainline Parkway, and controlled blasting is scheduled to get underway – weather permitting – to loosen bedrock along the Parkway’s path between the creek and Almshouse Road.

Traffic Restrictions

- **None currently in this area.**

Almshouse Road to Route 611

Excavation continues at a number of locations between Almshouse Road and Route 611, with blasting underway in the vicinity of Wells Road. Crews also are building the abutments for a small bridge between Wells and Lower State roads. The Parkway bridge over New Britain Road is nearing completion, and work at the Parkway interchange with Route 611 is ongoing.

Traffic Restrictions

- **Wells Road is closed to through traffic; and**

The Route 202 Parkway is scheduled to be completed and open to traffic in mid-2012.