

Route 202 Parkway Construction Update Winter 2011

Ribbon of Blacktop Connects Partially Finished Sections of Parkway with an Un-Constructed Middle

At least one of the three paving layers are in place along most of the new Route 202 Parkway, where a band of blacktop connects the white concrete of finished bridges on both sides of the remaining un-constructed section near the middle of the new, nine-mile long roadway. The Parkway remains on target to open in fall 2012.

Following is a summary of progress that was made over the past several months and a look ahead at coming construction, moving from south to north along the project corridor through Lower Gwynedd, Upper Gwynedd, Montgomery, Warrington, New Britain and Doylestown townships.

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

Utility crews have moved the old poles to the new edge of the road on the east side of DeKalb Pike as well as the poles from the north side of Welsh Road. On Welsh Road, crews finished placing the “base” and “binder” courses* of paving on the widened north side of Welsh Road from Stump Road to Bell Run Boulevard, west of the intersection with DeKalb Pike. Temporary traffic signals were strung over the new lanes and Welsh Road traffic was placed onto the new pavement on Dec. 19. Reconstruction of the opposite side of Welsh Road will continue into 2012.

With two paving layers now in place on DeKalb Pike, crews expect to finish work on the widened east side next spring before shifting traffic to begin rebuilding the opposite side and complete the widening of DeKalb Pike to four lanes at its approach to the southern Parkway entrance.

Most of the sound walls are in place along the east side of DeKalb Pike from south of Hancock Road through to Welsh Road and along the west side from Hancock Road south to near Swedesford Road. The new sound walls are being painted, and missing wall panels are expected to be put in place this winter.

DeKalb Pike north of Welsh Road has been widened to four lanes with a center turn lane through to Knapp Road.



Photo 1: Workers prepare to set panels for a noise wall along DeKalb Pike

Traffic Restrictions

- *Periodic weekday lane closures on Route 202 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.;*
- *Periodic weekday lane closures on Route 63 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.;*
- *Swedesford Road (upper) closed permanently to through traffic.*

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

Route 63 (Welsh Road) to Route 309

The Route 202 Parkway is finished in this section. Lane markings, traffic signs, the shared-use path and parking area, the ramp to and from Route 309 (Bethlehem Pike) and traffic signals are in place. Landscapers will finish planting this fall. Knapp Road and Route 309 (Bethlehem Pike) have been widened at the Parkway, but construction barriers remain in place until the Parkway opens to traffic.

Route 309 to Route 463 (Horsham Road)

About half of this finished portion of the 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 until fall 2012. Construction barriers remain in place on Horsham Road, Costco Drive and the open portion of the Parkway until the entire Parkway opens to traffic.

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

The project to widen Route 463 (Horsham Road) to four lanes with a center turn lane between North Wales Road and General Hancock Boulevard is finished.

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

Route 463 (Horsham Road) to County Line Road

Asphalt paving is in place for the Parkway on both sides but not between two small bridges in this section. The shared use path is paved south of the bridges, and some of the section's landscaping has been planted.

County Line Road to Route 152 (Limekiln Pike)

Two bridges in this section – a culvert that will provide access under the Parkway for the nearby cemetery along with the Parkway bridge over Mill Creek just north of the permanently closed Detweiler Road – are finished. This section is paved (some “base”, some “binder”) on both sides and between the two bridges. The Shared Use Path is laid out but will not be paved until next spring. Some landscaping is in place.



Photo 2: A paved section of Parkway north of Horsham Road

The reconstruction and widening of Route 152 (Limekiln Pike) from Stump Road to north of Upper State Road is virtually finished as is widening on Upper State Road at the

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intersection. Line striping is done and traffic signals are in place and functioning at that intersection, but signals at the intersection with the Parkway will remain covered until they are needed to regulate Parkway traffic.

Traffic Restrictions

- *Occasional lane closures on Route 152 (Limekiln Pike), weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.;*
- *Periodic lane closures on Upper State Road, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.;*
- *Detweiler Road closed permanently.*
- *Periodic stoppages for equipment crossings on County Line Road at the Parkway, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

Route 152 (Limekiln Pike) to Pickertown Road

Unlike the majority of Parkway work areas, this section remains a virtual moonscape of bulk excavation. While berms and storm water basins have been built at the southern half of this section, the long down-slope approaching Pickertown Road will be excavated over the next several months and crews will begin building the bridge that will carry Pickertown Road over the Parkway.

Traffic Restrictions

- *Pickertown Road detoured between Stump and Upper State roads*

Companion Project Section WD1 – County Line Road Widening

Road widening continues on the Bucks County side from east of Route 202 (Butler Avenue) to Stump Road. Crews are excavating, installing storm water drainage facilities and building sound walls in this area. In addition, a locally owned water line was relocated in the widened area. Utility poles and lines continue to be relocated within this work area. Temporary traffic signals that will be used when the existing signal poles are removed during construction on the north side later this year also are being installed.

Section 721 – Parkway construction between Pickertown Road and Route 611

Pickertown Road to Bristol Road

Just beyond the cavernous excavation at Pickertown Road, the project is much further along. Asphalt paving is in place on both sides of a small bridge located about halfway between Pickertown and Bristol roads. Part of the Shared Use Path is built in this area, and the trail-head parking area at Bristol Road is paved. Berms have been built and some of the landscaping – evergreens but not deciduous trees or shrubs – is in place in this section as well. The remaining landscaping will be finished in 2012.



Photo 3: Paving in place just north of Pickertown Road

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Much of the work to widen Bristol Road between Upper State and Stump roads has been completed. Traffic signals are up and covered at the intersection with the Parkway. Widening at Upper State Road, where left turn lanes have been installed, is nearing completion.

Bristol Road to Lower State Road

Paving is in place along this scenic stretch of Parkway on its undulating run from Bristol Road, across finished bridges over the Neshaminy Creek and Almshouse Road, and up and through the woods toward a descent to Lower State Road. The shared use path and some of the landscaping – evergreen trees but not deciduous trees and shrubs – are in place as well. The remaining landscaping will be finished in 2012. The intersection of the Parkway and Lower State Road remains under construction.



Photo 4: The Parkway bridge over Neshaminy Creek

Lower State Road to Route 611

The northern home stretch of the Route 202 Parkway is rounding into shape on its run from Lower State Road to a connection with the Route 611 Bypass and existing Route 202 just below Doylestown. Asphalt paving connects Lower State Road with a finished bridge just south of Wells Road. Paving also is in place north of the bridge as the Parkway passes under the completed new Wells Road overpass, then over the finished bridge crossing New Britain Road before fanning out on two new ramps that will provide access to and from the Bypass and two lanes connecting to existing Route 202.



Photo 5: The Wells Road Overpass

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The shared use path also is paved. Most of the landscaping in this section will be planted in 2012 before the Parkway opens to traffic.

New sign structures for the Parkway are being erected on the Route 611 and Route 202 bypasses in anticipation of the opening of the Parkway next fall.

** Parkway mainline paving consists of 10 inches of crushed stone, a 6.5 inch "base" course of asphalt and a 2.5 inch "binder" course of asphalt topped with and a 1.5 inch "wearing" course, or asphalt riding surface that is applied near the end of construction.*