

PENNDOT OPENS BIDS TO BUILD SOUTHERN PART OF ROUTE 202 PARKWAY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Construction to begin later this year to build 1.8-mile stretch in Montgomery Township

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The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) today announced that it received an apparent low bid of \$31,725,653 to build the first section of the 8.6-mile Route 202 Parkway between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 611 in Montgomery and Bucks counties. Construction is expected to start in December.

J.D. Eckman, Inc. of Atglen, Pa. submitted the apparent low bid to build the 1.8-mile-long portion of the parkway between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 463 (Horsham Road) in Montgomery Township, Montgomery County. The bid was one of seven PennDOT received to build this section of the Parkway. The apparent low bid now must undergo a thorough evaluation to ensure that it conforms to all state specifications prior to the award of the contract.

“Today’s bid opening is a milestone for all those who have worked many years for a new roadway to improve travel and reduce congestion between Montgomeryville and Doylestown,” PennDOT District Executive Lester C. Toaso said. “The wait for the Parkway is nearly over as construction soon will begin to provide additional capacity on this overcrowded stretch of the Route 202 Corridor.”

This contract is the first of three to proceed to construction to build the new Parkway, which will have four travel lanes between Route 63 and Route 463, and two lanes between Route 463 and Route 611. Bid openings for the two remaining construction contracts are scheduled for early 2009. Construction of the entire Parkway is scheduled to finish in 2011. The cost to design and build the Parkway is \$200 million.

On the four-lane section between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 463 (Horsham Road), the Parkway will have two travel lanes in each direction with left turn lanes at all intersections and on major side roads. It also will include:

- Five-foot wide paved shoulder/bicycle lanes with an additional three-foot wide shoulder for emergency access and breakdowns.
- A new connection road between Costco Drive and General Hancock Boulevard.
- Two connector roads between the Parkway and Route 309.
- Five new signalized intersections including Parkway/Knapp Road; Parkway/Connector Road “A” to 309; Parkway/Costco Drive; Parkway/Horsham Road; and Knapp Road/Withwood Drive.
- A new 117-foot long, one-span bridge carrying the Parkway over Route 309.
- A new at-grade bridge over a tributary to the Neshaminy Creek north of Knapp Road.
- Two new arch culverts over tributaries to the Little Neshaminy Creek and the extension of an existing box culvert on Route 309.
- Approximately 1,300 linear feet of retaining walls to minimize wetland impacts, stream impacts and right of way impacts. The walls will be built using a design-build process to save construction and design

costs.

- Modifications to the existing signal at Route 309/Garden Golf Boulevard to include Connector Road “A” as the fourth leg.
- The installation of new traffic signal control equipment at the new signalized intersections. The new signal control system will detect and collect vehicle data by processing video images and automatically optimize the traffic signal timing in response to real-time traffic demands. Pedestrian accommodations are also included at all signalized intersections including pedestrian signal heads with countdown timers.
- Independent 12-foot wide shared-use path serving walkers and bicyclists. Nine access points to the trail will be available within this section of the Parkway.
- 10 storm water management facilities
- Seven bio-retention areas to promote storm water infiltration and improved water quality
- Trailhead parking areas off Route 309 and Knapp Road with a total of 101 parking spaces.
- Context sensitive design elements including form liner patterns and painted concrete on all roadway barriers, culverts, retaining walls and bridge surfaces to simulate a traditional, stone appearance; 2,900 feet of landscaped earth berms; extensive landscaping along the roadways and trails; landscaped median islands; riparian buffer plantings along wetlands and waterways; and other aesthetic enhancements.

Toaso said PennDOT is presently finalizing the engineering plans and acquiring the necessary property to build the two remaining sections of the Parkway between Route 463 and Pickertown Road and between Pickertown Road and Route 611. Construction on these sections is expected to start in mid-2009.

Additional information on the Route 202 Parkway is available on line at www.us202-700.com.