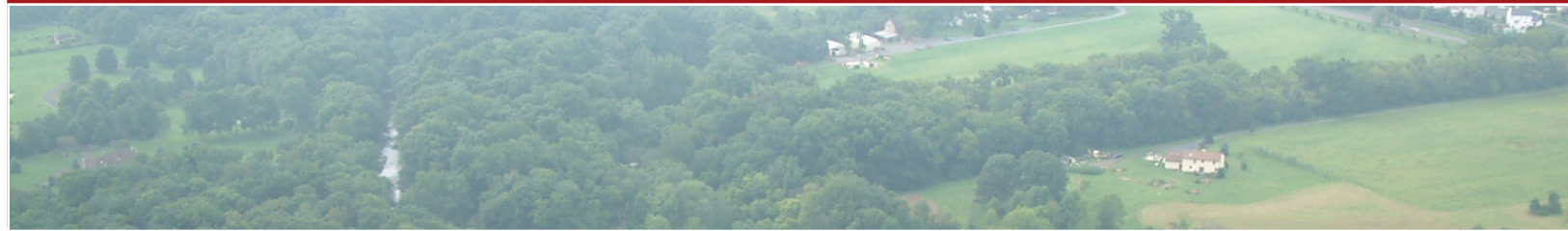




Edward G. Rendell, Governor  
Allen D. Biehler, P.E., Sect. of Transportation



## Project Update

### PENNDOT AWARDS CONTRACT TO BUILD SOUTHERN PART OF ROUTE 202 PARKWAY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) awarded a \$31,725,653 contract to J.D. Eckman, Inc. of Atglen, PA 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 late November or early December to construct the 1.8-mile-long portion of the parkway between Route 63 (Welsh Road) and Route 463 (Horsham Road) in Montgomery Township, Montgomery County.

J.D. Eckman's bid was the lowest of seven that PennDOT received in September to build this section of the Parkway.

"The recent bid opening and contract award are significant milestones 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/Witchwood 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 improve 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.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Now that the permit has been obtained, when will construction start?

With the receipt of the necessary permits, PennDOT is moving forward to start construction in the late fall to build the southern part (Section 701) of the Route 202 Parkway between Route 63 and Route 463 in Montgomery County. Construction of the central (Section 711) and northern (Section 721) sections of the Parkway will begin later in 2009. The start of all three sections of the Parkway will be staggered, with construction of Section 711 and 721 beginning approximately 6 months after Section 701. The Parkway is scheduled to be completed and open to traffic in 2011.

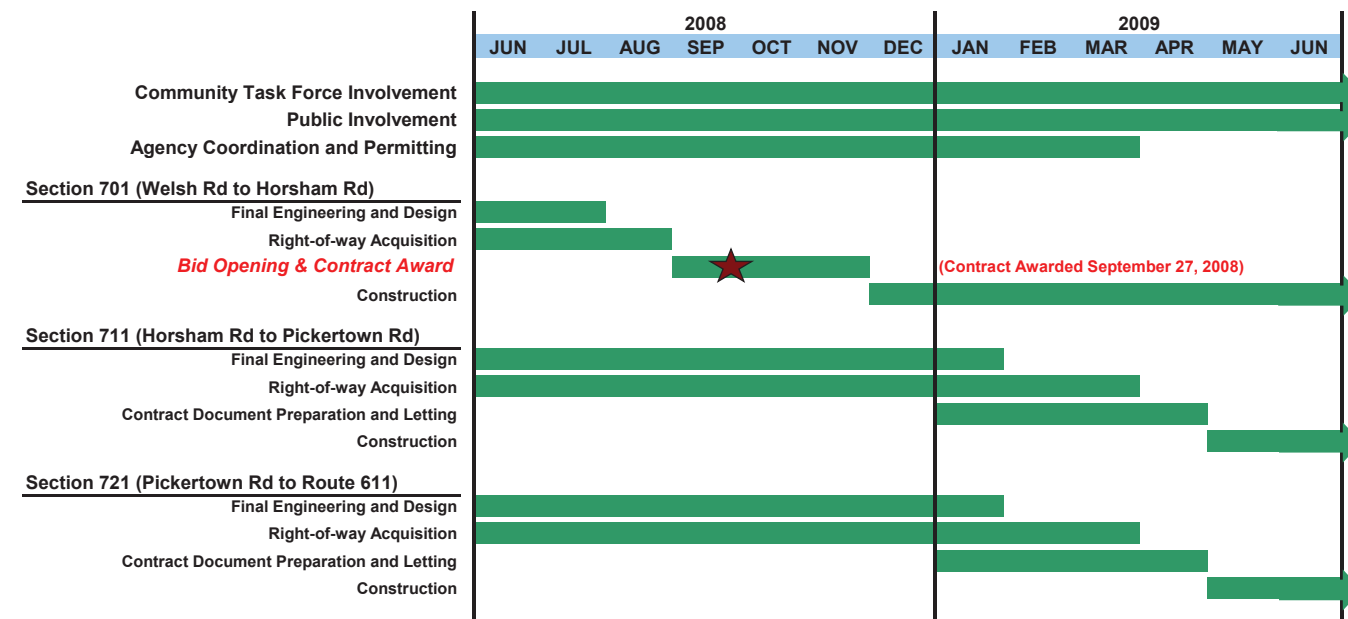
**Q:** Will each Section be opened to traffic as it is completed?

No. Although the construction of each section of the Parkway is being staggered, they will not be opened to traffic until all construction is done, including the completion of adjacent projects at existing Route 202 and Welsh Road (Section 65N), and Horsham Road and County Line Road.

**Q:** Where can I find information during construction?

The 202-700 website (www.us202-700.com) will be updated continuously during the construction of the Parkway. The website will provide traffic management information including road closures and detours. The website will also keep residents up-to-date with the project schedule and construction progress.

## Project Schedule



### Contact Us!

PennDOT values your input and suggestions. If you are interested in being added to the project mailing list or have comments on the project, please submit your name through the project website: [www.us202-700.com](http://www.us202-700.com)

or contact  
**Madeleine Fausto**  
 PennDOT Project Manager  
 7000 Geerdes Boulevard  
 King of Prussia, PA 19406  
 Phone: 610-205-6848

## Wetland Mitigation

The Route 202 Parkway (Section 700) will provide a much-needed transportation route to enhance mobility and reduce congestion along the Route 202 Corridor in Bucks and Montgomery counties. The construction of the Parkway will have some affect on the surrounding environment, but PennDOT will mitigate unavoidable impacts to wetlands that are caused by construction by recreating and enhancing existing wetlands at an off-site location.

As it pertains to unavoidable impacts, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires compensatory mitigation to replace the loss of wetland functions in the watershed. Compensatory mitigation is defined as, "the restoration, creation, enhancement, or in exceptional cases preservation of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable impacts."

A site along the Little Neshaminy Creek, north of County Line Road and west of Kansas Road in Bucks County, was selected as the wetland mitigation site for the Route 202 Parkway. This site was chosen due to its existing wetlands and available land for creating new wetlands to further enhance the overall function of the entire wetland site.

The Kansas Road Wetland Mitigation Site Program entails 5.1 acres of existing wetlands to heighten, intensify and/or improve one or more wetland functions and the creation of 9.3 acres of new wetlands. The plan also includes the enhancement of 2.4 acres of upland habitats, and the preservation of 31 acres of wetlands, 30.8 acres of upland and 5,660 linear feet of perennial and intermittent streams. PennDOT will remove approximately 30,000 cubic yards of earth to create the wetland areas and add more than 13,000 plants to the site.

The mitigation site also will have a Restrictive Covenants for Conservation placed on it. This declaration is put in place to:

- Preserve and protect the native flora, fauna, soils, water table, drainage patterns and other conservation values of the conservation area.
- View the conservation area in its scenic and open condition.
- Assure that the conservation area, including its air space and subsurface, will be retained in perpetuity in its natural condition and to prevent any use of the conservation area that will impair or interfere with its natural resource functions and values.

Many activities will be prohibited within the conservation area (mitigation site) including the construction of man-made structures that were not part of the original final design for the mitigation site.

In September, PennDOT awarded a \$2,723,599.80 contract to KC Construction Company to build the wetland mitigation site at Kansas Road in Bucks County.

### Mitigation Sequencing Guidelines

A three-part process, to help guide mitigation decisions:

1. **Avoid** - Adverse impacts are to be avoided and no discharge shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative with less adverse impact.
2. **Minimize** - If impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate and practicable steps must be taken to minimize adverse impacts.
3. **Compensate** - Appropriate and practicable compensatory mitigation is required for unavoidable adverse impacts that remain.

## 3-D Animations

3-D animations of Section 701 of the Route 202 Parkway are available for viewing on the Parkway website. The animations were created to give residents a realistic view of how the Parkway will look upon its opening. Two different views were created for each of the Parkway's three construction sections: a 'drive-by' and a 'fly-by'. The 'drive-by' is from the vantage point of a driver, while the 'fly-by' is of the vantage point of a low-flying aircraft. The animations are available for viewing on the project website, [www.us202-700.com](http://www.us202-700.com), in the project animation page. You can view them directly in the web page; therefore, no downloading or specific media player is required. Animations for Section 711 and 721 will be posted in the near future.

