

PennDOT Route 611 Project to Start in June Lane Restrictions will Cause Delays

Construction will take place this summer to rehabilitate and improve two structurally deficient bridges on Route 611 at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Interchange in Upper Moreland Township. The bridges, built in the 1950s, are 1,115 feet apart. They span a branch of Pennypack Creek and two turnpike ramps.

PennDOT's contractor will begin preliminary work in mid-to-late June with crews working on Route 611 at night or on a weekend to remove the existing median and replace it with temporary pavement for the next stage of construction. All work is scheduled to finish in October.

Weather permitting, mainline bridge construction, with round-the-clock lane closures on Route 611, is scheduled to begin July 5 and finish in early September. The contractor has 63 days to repair the bridges and open all lanes on Route 611 without incurring a financial penalty. The plan is to initially repair the east side of the bridges, then the west side, and finally the center of the structures. Once the bridge work is completed, Route 611 will be resurfaced through the work area.

The final phase of the project involves repairs to bridge walls and abutments adjacent to two ramps at the Route 611/Pennsylvania Turnpike Interchange, an operation that will result in overnight closures of the turnpike ramp to Route 611 south and the Route 611 south entrance ramp to the turnpike. Work is expected to last about one week alongside each ramp.

Route 611 motorists will encounter lane closures and changing traffic patterns during the multi-stage project. Drivers must allow considerably more time for travel through the turnpike interchange during construction on the two bridges because northbound and southbound Route 611 will reduce to one lane in areas between Wyandotte Road and Home Depot Drive. The location and length of the single-lane patterns change during each stage of bridge construction.

Preliminary work on Route 611 in mid-to-late June will occur weeknights from 9 PM to 5 AM or on a weekend between 9 PM Friday and 5 AM Monday. Drivers will face temporary lane closures. When mainline bridge construction commences in early July, crews will work weekdays and weekends as needed behind protective concrete barriers. Once the bridge work is completed, the contractor will resurface Route 611 in this area at night from 9 PM to 5 AM, with overnight lane closures. The final phase of work to repair the bridge walls next to the two ramps at the turnpike interchange will take place during overnight hours. The construction schedule is weather dependent.

PennDOT is improving the bridges on Route 611 by removing the deteriorated concrete surfaces and installing new concrete overlays to protect the decks and provide smoother riding surfaces. Crews are also sealing expansion joints, repairing concrete beams, installing downspouts, adding rock protection along the support abutments at the bridge over the branch of Pennypack Creek, and repairing concrete walls and abutments beams, installing downspouts, adding rock protection along the support abutments at the bridge over the branch of Pennypack Creek, and repairing concrete walls and abutments.

Both bridges on Route 611 will be removed from the structurally deficient category following construction.

Loftus Construction, Inc. of Cinnaminson, N.J. is the general contractor on the \$7.3 million group bridge contract under which nine structurally deficient bridges are being repaired in the five-county Philadelphia region.