



I-476/Blue Route Improvement Project

Contract Awarded to Rebuild I-476

PENNDOT AWARDS \$71.7 MILLION CONTRACT TO REBUILD 3.2 MILES OF I-476 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) today announced the award of a \$71.7 million project to reconstruct 3.2 miles of Interstate 476 between the Interstate 76 and Pennsylvania Turnpike Mid-County interchanges in West Conshohocken Borough and Plymouth Township, Montgomery County. Road construction is expected to start in late September and finish in late 2011.

Crews will work over the next two years to rebuild this deteriorated stretch of I-476 that was built in the 1970s. The plan consists of replacing I-476's deteriorated concrete pavement, which currently is covered with an asphalt overlay; rehabilitating six dual mainline bridges and one overhead structure; rebuilding and widening the highway's shoulders; improving storm water drainage; remediating an area prone to sinkholes; and installing 17 new sign structures.

Starting in late September, the contractor will work weeknights to rebuild shoulders and build cross-over lanes in the grass median in preparation for implementing a traffic pattern shift early next year. Lane closures over the next three months will occur weeknights from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

PennDOT plans to keep three travel lanes open in each direction on I-476 during construction, except during overnight hours.

Starting in early 2010, the contractor will institute an "express lane" pattern along this three-mile section of highway similar to what is currently in place on I-476 where PennDOT is rebuilding the twin bridges carrying I-476 over the Schuylkill River just north of the I-76 Interchange.

The "express lane" pattern will place one travel lane on the opposite side of the highway within the construction zone to keep three travel lanes open in each direction and to expedite construction by providing the contractor with a

larger area in which to work.

This section of I-476 carries between 128,000 to 145,000 vehicles a day.

Allan A. Myers, LP is the general contractor on the \$71,728,383 project that is financed with 100 percent federal funds, including \$3.5 million of economic recovery money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The project to rebuild over three miles of I-476 will be coordinated with the bridge construction presently taking place on the highway, in which PennDOT is repairing and rehabilitating the 35-year-old twin bridges (Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge) spanning the Schuylkill River in Plymouth Township and West Conshohocken Borough. Work on this \$47.4 million project began in March 2009 and is scheduled to finish in late 2010.

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