

Wexford Flats Improvements

PROJECT REPORT

Aug. 2, 2011

1. PROJECT STATUS OVERVIEW

Work continues on Phase I between Longvue Road and Brooktree Road. The contractor, Golden Triangle Construction (GTC), expects to complete the southbound lanes this fall; however, the addition of more than 5,000 feet of waterline replacement will prevent the completion of the northbound lanes in this area as originally planned. The northbound section between the intersections of Richard/Reichold Road and Brooktree is now expected to occur next spring. This will not change the overall completion date next fall.

2. WORK COMPLETE

Widening Route 19 through the Wexford Flats has required many utilities to be totally relocated outside the area necessary for the construction of new sidewalk, curb gutter, and travel lanes. To facilitate the utility relocation and the widening construction, traffic on Route 19 is restricted to one lane in both directions with a single center left-turn lane created to access locations on either side of the roadway. Temporary traffic signals have been installed at North Allegheny Senior High, Richard/Reichold Road, and North Meadow Drive/Wexford Plaza to allow traffic to operate in a modified pattern during construction of the widening and new permanent signals.

Utility relocations have been completed for Equitable Gas, Penn Power, Consolidated, and Verizon Communications, and are continuing for Columbia Gas and West View Water. Construction of the widening cannot proceed, however, until all new utility lines are complete and tested, new service lines are installed, and old utility lines are abandoned.

A new drainage system is being constructed along Route 19 southbound in areas where conflicts with existing utilities have been eliminated. This new system has allowed excavation to progress for the construction of the new roadway.

Reconstruction of the North Allegheny Senior High School entrances is underway with an expected completion by Aug. 5 to minimize impacts near the start of the school year.

3. DETAILED CHALLENGES

- a. Right of Way Clearance – Clearing the needed space for the roadway improvements has required significant coordination between the contractor and individual property owners, which is progressing well thanks to community cooperation.
- b. Utility Relocations – Utility relocations were required due to the age of the systems and proximity to other facilities. In addition to the original planned relocations, an additional 5,181 LF (Linear Feet) of relocated waterline has been added to the project, taking the total from roughly 6,504 LF to 11,685 LF. Golden Triangle has been working multiple shifts per day to install this additional water line in an effort to mitigate any negative schedule impacts.
- c. Subgrade Undercut – Soil conditions have required that additional stabilization measures be taken to properly prepare the subgrade to support the widened pavement structure.

4. APPROACH TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

- a. Golden Triangle Construction intends to complete widening on the south half (Phase I) of the project on the southbound side of Route 19 from Brooktree Road to the project limits, and along the northbound lanes from the southern limits to beyond Richard Road as far as possible before the end of the 2011 construction season. The remaining work will be completed over winter and during 2012 on the northern half (Phase II) of the project.
- b. Golden Triangle Construction expects to use the following methods to complete the project in a timely manner:
 - 1. Extended work hours (50/58-hour work weeks for certain operations as necessary)
 - 2. Additional Manpower (GTC has additional crews working day/night shift to complete critical activities)
 - 3. Activity/Phase Re-sequencing GTC is planning to construct portions of north-and-southbound drainage and widening concurrently under a modified traffic control plan in an effort to mitigate delayed completion of the utility relocations.

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