



MARKLEY STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Newsletter 3 - Summer 2011

Including Improvements to Johnson Highway between
Markley Street and Dekalb Street

Tom Corbett, Governor
Barry J. Schoch, P.E., Secretary of Transportation



The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is moving forward with final design for the reconstruction and improvement of Markley Street in Norristown Borough and Johnson Highway in Norristown Borough and East Norriton Township. The plan to improve Markley Street, which is referred to as U.S. 202 Section 500, extends from just south of its intersection with Main Street to the intersection of Johnson Highway. Johnson Highway is slated for improvement between Markley Street and DeKalb Street. PennDOT will build the project in two construction sections: Section 520 and Section 510. Section 520 is the northern part of Markley Street that runs from Elm Street to Johnson Highway, and includes Johnson Highway and the rehabilitation of the Main Street Bridge over Stony Creek. Section 520 is scheduled to start construction in summer 2012. Section 510 is the southern section that extends from just south of Main Street to Elm Street. This part of Markley Street is scheduled to move to construction in summer 2014.

PennDOT and Norristown Borough have worked closely since preliminary engineering began in late 2002, and this relationship formed the basis of the agreement to transfer the ownership and maintenance responsibility of Markley Street from the borough to PennDOT upon the start of each construction section.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Final engineering is moving ahead on both the northern and southern sections of Markley Street. The design team is currently incorporating the following roadway, bridge, streetscape and pedestrian enhancements into the final plans:

Section 510 - Main Street to Elm Street

- PennDOT will rebuild the existing four-lane section of Markley Street between Main Street and Marshall Street with minimal widening; replace two bridges over Stony Creek with a single bridge that accommodates two-way traffic; build a new sidewalk on the west side of Markley Street to link SEPTA train stations at Main Street and Elm Street;
- Reconstruct and widen Markley Street to provide one northbound lane, two southbound lanes and a center lane for left turns between Marshall Street and Elm Street; rehabilitate the Markley Street/Elm Street stone arch bridge over Stony Creek, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- Improve Main Street between Astor Street and Barbadoes Street and perform minor widening to allow for two travel lanes in each direction to improve traffic flow through the signalized intersection at Markley Street; provide recessed parking between Barbadoes Street and



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For more information and project updates, please visit our website at www.US202.com

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WHERE ARE WE NOW? (con't.)

Markley Street on the south side; add streetscape enhancements along Main Street between Barbadoes Street and Markley Street to match streetscape improvements recently made under Norristown Borough's Main Street Streetscape Project;

- Upgrade the railroad grade crossings at Main Street and Marshall Street by coordinating with SEPTA to improve both crossings by installing new gates, signals and crossing surfaces; and
- Replace existing traffic signals on Markley Street at the intersections of Main Street, Marshall Street and Elm Street.

Section 520 – Elm Street to Johnson Highway

- Reconstruct Markley Street between Elm Street and Johnson Highway to provide one lane in each direction, with a center lane for left turns and recessed parking bays in residential areas. This redesigned section of Markley Street will fit within the existing roadway footprint, except where minor widening is required for parking bays. The plan includes the realignment and signalization of Coolidge Boulevard so it aligns with Brown Street to improve traffic flow and safety at the Markley Street intersection;
- Build a small off-street parking lot on the southwest corner of Harding Boulevard and Markley Street to compensate for the loss of on-street parking between Elm Street and James Street;
- Replace existing traffic signals on Markley Street at Harding Boulevard, Fornance Street and Johnson Highway, and install a new signal on Markley Street at the intersection with Coolidge Boulevard and Brown Street; interconnect and coordinate traffic signals with fiber optic cable to enhance traffic flow along the corridor;
- Rehabilitate the Main Street stone arch bridge over Stony Creek and rebuild the roadway approaches between Astor Street and Water Street; and
- Improve Johnson Highway between Markley Street and DeKalb Street; perform minor widening to provide additional turn lanes at the intersection of Markley Street; restripe Johnson Highway to provide a center lane for left turns and eliminate existing on-street parking spaces east of Pine Street.

Section 520 Special Design Features

PennDOT is incorporating special design features into Section 520 including:

Streetscape Enhancements

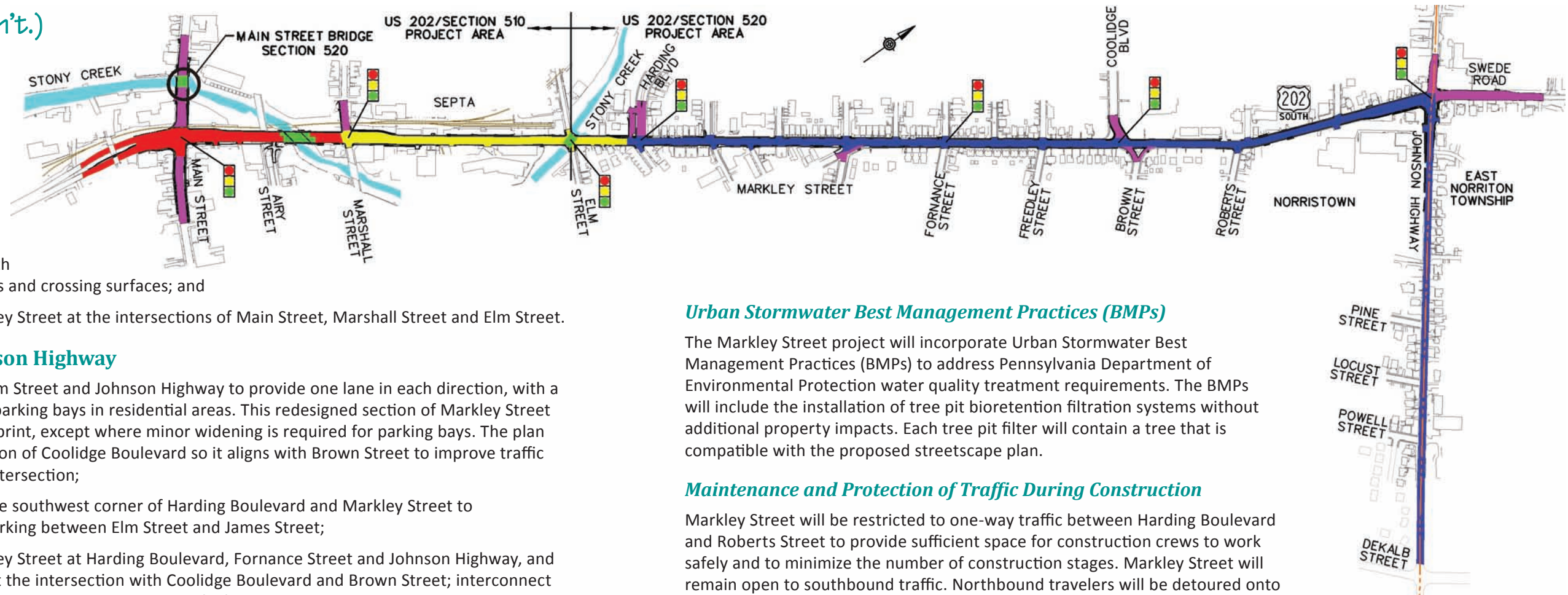
Trees and decorative pedestrian street lights will be installed on Markley Street between Elm Street and Roberts Street to enhance the corridor. In addition, utility poles will be restricted to the west side of Markley Street to eliminate the need for tree trimming by utility companies in future years. Norristown Borough also will install additional trees and landscaping on several borough side streets that intersect Markley Street.

Pedestrian Improvements

PennDOT will build new curb ramps at all intersections to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Signalized intersections also will include ADA-compliant pushbuttons, pedestrian countdown signals and continental crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety. Sidewalks will be widened at side street intersections between Elm Street and Roberts Street to minimize the crossing distance for pedestrians.



Pedestrian street lights on Main Street are planned for Markley Street.



LEGEND

- - EXISTING 4 LANE SECTION (2 NORTH, 2 SOUTH)
- - 4 LANE SECTION (1 NORTH, 2 SOUTH, 1 TURN)
- - 3 LANE SECTION (1 NORTH, 1 SOUTH, 1 TURN)
- - SIDE STREET IMPROVEMENTS
- - BRIDGES TO BE REPLACED OR REHABILITATED
- ■ ■ - UPGRADED OR NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL
- - SEPTA (RAILROAD YARD)

Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The Markley Street project will incorporate Urban Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection water quality treatment requirements. The BMPs will include the installation of tree pit bioretention filtration systems without additional property impacts. Each tree pit filter will contain a tree that is compatible with the proposed streetscape plan.

Maintenance and Protection of Traffic During Construction

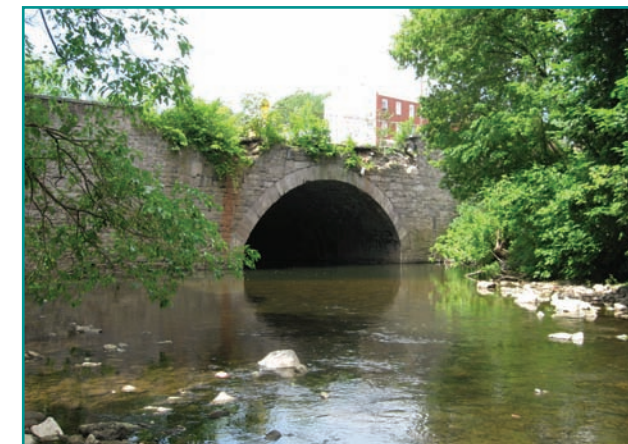
Markley Street will be restricted to one-way traffic between Harding Boulevard and Roberts Street to provide sufficient space for construction crews to work safely and to minimize the number of construction stages. Markley Street will remain open to southbound traffic. Northbound travelers will be detoured onto DeKalb Street. PennDOT will modify the timing of traffic signals along DeKalb Street to enhance traffic flow during the partial closure of Markley Street.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) / Incident Management

PennDOT will install ITS components, including closed-circuit highway cameras and dynamic message signs, at key intersections within the project area and along the detour route to monitor traffic flow and provide travel information to motorists during and after construction. The ITS elements will be connected to PennDOT's Traffic Management Center in King of Prussia to quickly address incidents on Markley Street and DeKalb Street.

Rehabilitation of Main Street Stone Arch Bridge over Stony Creek

PennDOT will rehabilitate the Main Street Bridge over Stony Creek starting in 2012 due to the bridge's deteriorating condition. Crews will upgrade the stone arch bridge by rebuilding a collapsed wall, performing structural repairs, and re-pointing the mortar joints between the stones. The rehabilitation plan will preserve the bridge's current appearance, which is a contributing element of the West Norristown Historic District.



PennDOT will rehabilitate the Main Street Stone Arch Bridge over Stony Creek and preserve its appearance.

Keeping You Informed

This newsletter is part of PennDOT's continuing effort to inform citizens about the Markley Street Improvement Project.

PennDOT plans to hold an Open House public meeting in spring 2012 to present the final improvement plan and the anticipated construction schedules. The date, time and location of the public meeting will be announced in local newspapers and posted on the U.S. 202 website www.US202.com when details are finalized.

Anticipated Project Schedule

- Section 520 – Elm Street to Johnson Highway: Begin construction in summer 2012
- Section 510 - Main Street to Elm Street: Begin construction in summer 2014

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