



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2019

PennDOT Issues Atherton Street Project Update for Early May *Full depth reconstruction scheduled through May 15 from West Mitchell to Hillcrest*

State College, PA -- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is issuing an early May update for its North Atherton Street (Route 3014) project in State College.

Work will carry through 2019, with **phased** work zones stretching from Aaron Drive to Park Avenue. Work includes relocation of numerous utility lines, relocation of sewer and water lines, drainage improvements, curbing, sidewalks, ADA ramps, traffic signal upgrades, new concrete median, and paving.

The project page for this work can be found at www.penndot.gov/AthertonStreet.

The contractor will be reconstructing the entire roadway between West Mitchell Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue. Traffic control will consist of lane closures limiting traffic to one lane heading toward the University and one lane leaving the University. The work will take place 24-hours-a-day/7 days-a-week including the weekend. Long-term traffic control will be implemented until the work is complete, which is anticipated for Wednesday, May 15.

Motorists **can also expect** the following **May 6 through May 12:**

- **West Aaron Drive to Park Avenue—entire length of project:**
 - ❖ **When traffic control is reduced to a single lane heading toward the University near the Park Avenue intersection, left turns will be restricted between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. to maintain the flow of traffic.**
 - ❖ **Portions of sidewalk are currently removed on both sides of Atherton Street between Cherry Lane and Hillcrest Avenue. Signing is in place directing pedestrian traffic to use side streets.**
 - ❖ **Pedestrian safety is important.** Currently pedestrians can cross Atherton Street using the intersections at **Aaron Drive, North Hills Place, Blue Course Drive, Hillcrest Avenue, and Park Avenue. Crossing at other locations is not recommended.**
 - ❖ A speed minder remains in place between Cherry Lane and Hillcrest Avenue heading toward the University. It displays motorists' speed, reminding them to obey the posted speed limit of 25 MPH.
 - ❖ Motorists are reminded the speed limit remains reduced to 25 MPH from Aaron Drive to the State College Borough line near Mitchell Avenue. This speed reduction will be in place until project completion in October of 2019. The speed limit from Mitchell Avenue to Park Avenue within State College Borough is already permanently posted at 25 MPH.

- ❖ **Motorists are also reminded not to block signalized intersections while the signal is red.** This prevents traffic from side streets from crossing the roadway. **It is also a violation of the vehicle code enforceable by fine.**
- ❖ Drivers are reminded to “share the road” and be alert for pedestrians, bicyclists, and buses as they move through this work zone.
- **West Aaron Drive to West Mitchell Avenue:**
 - ❖ **No work anticipated.**
- **West Mitchell Avenue to Hillcrest Avenue:**
 - ❖ **The contractor will be reconstructing the entire roadway between West Mitchell Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue. Traffic control will consist of lane closures limiting traffic to one lane heading toward the University and one lane leaving the University. The work will take place 24-hours-a-day/7 days-a-week including the weekend. Long-term traffic control will be implemented until the work is complete, which is anticipated for Wednesday, May 15.**
- **Hillcrest Avenue to Park Avenue:**
 - ❖ **No work anticipated.**
- **Aaron Drive to Park Avenue--Left:**
 - ❖ **Verizon will be removing abandoned cable between Aaron drive and Park Avenue on the left side of Atherton heading toward the University.** Traffic control will consist of daylight lane closures limiting traffic to at least one lane heading toward the University and one lane leaving the University. This work will take place during the daytime hours throughout the week.

Flaggers may be present in the roadway directing traffic and traffic may be stopped for short periods of time. **Please be patient and courteous to other drivers.** Do not follow construction equipment into a closed lane.

Motorists are asked to use both lanes to the merge points throughout the work zone. This will minimize traffic backlogs and travel delays in the work zone.

Property owners are encouraged to approach workers on the project if they need assistance entering or exiting their properties. The contractor is aware of the necessity to move equipment and/or plate over excavations quickly and safely to allow for access.

All work is weather and schedule dependent. Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. of State College is the contractor on this \$12.8 million job. **Drivers are reminded to move through work zones with caution, obey posted speed limits, and always buckle up.**

PennDOT reminds drivers that they can subscribe to PennDOT news in Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Juniata, McKean, Mifflin, and Potter counties at www.penndot.gov/District2.

PennDOT encourages drivers to “Know before they go” and to check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA is free, available 24 hours a day, and provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information, and access to more than 860 traffic cameras.

511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

For regional updates on Twitter, follow www.twitter.com/511PAStateColl

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