



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Preliminary Work to Start on Route 26 Local Interchange Project

Bellefonte, PA – Preliminary work is expected to start soon on the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Route 26 Local Interchange project in Centre County. Crews placed work zone and traffic control signs on Friday, July 17 between the I-80/161 exit and Jacksonville Road. The signs will remain covered until project activity begins on Monday, July 27. Preliminary work will include erosion and sedimentation controls as well as construction of emergency pull-offs. Once work begins, drivers may encounter lane and shoulder restrictions.

Work on this project will be done in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and state Department of Health guidance as well as a project-specific COVID-19 safety plan, which will include protocols for social distancing, use of face coverings, personal and job site cleaning protocols, management of entries to the job site and relevant training.

The I-80/Route 26 local interchange project is east of Bellefonte and is part of a long-awaited safety-improvement in Centre County. HRI, Inc. of State College is the contractor on this \$52 million project. Up-to-date information can be found on the project page at www.penndot.gov/SR26Localinterchange

The local interchange project is the first phase of a three-phase project to build local access, a high-speed interchange connection between I-99 and I-80, and to make improvements on Jacksonville Road. An initial \$35 million for the project was announced in July 2018, coming through a federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant. Completion of all three phases will support regional freight economy and improve the reliability of roadway travel throughout the region.

Motorists can check conditions on major roadways by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 1,000 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.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Marla Fannin (814) 360-3013, Timothy Nebgen (814) 360-3838

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