

SCAC PROJECT MOVES INTO NEXT PHASE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

With the conclusion of the State College Area Connector (SCAC) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study or planning phase of project development, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has requested that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) publish a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NOI initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Phase of project development, which includes conducting detailed field investigations and traffic analysis, and refining engineering alternatives. The NEPA Phase has a 2-year time frame for receiving an official decision on the alternative to advance for final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

The NEPA Phase of project development specifically includes:

- Investigate and document the project specific purpose and needs.
- Develop engineering design for specific alignments within the PEL corridors.
- Document social, economic, and environmental resources.
- Identify potential impacts.
- Consider appropriate impact mitigation measures.
- Coordinate with resource agencies.
- Continue engagement with public officials and the public through public meetings and hearings.
- Develop a Draft and Final EIS for public and agency review and comment.



Currently, the SCAC team is conducting field investigations. These investigations include conducting agricultural operation interviews, wetlands delineations, plant and wildlife species surveys, traffic counts, historic resource surveys, background noise measurements, and waste site investigations. These activities are conducted by experts in the various fields.

Other activities include a private well/septic system survey, public meeting planning, continued coordination meetings and engineering design of alternative alignments to best avoid or minimize impacts to area resources.



SCAC Project Moves into Next Phase of Project Development, cont'd.

PennDOT anticipates holding two public meetings and a public hearing for the SCAC project. The first meeting will present the refinements to the alignments that have occurred since the PEL Study and will include updated environmental resource data and potential impacts. This meeting is anticipated to be held in the summer of 2024. Following the meeting, the project team will address comments and develop additional project refinements, as appropriate.

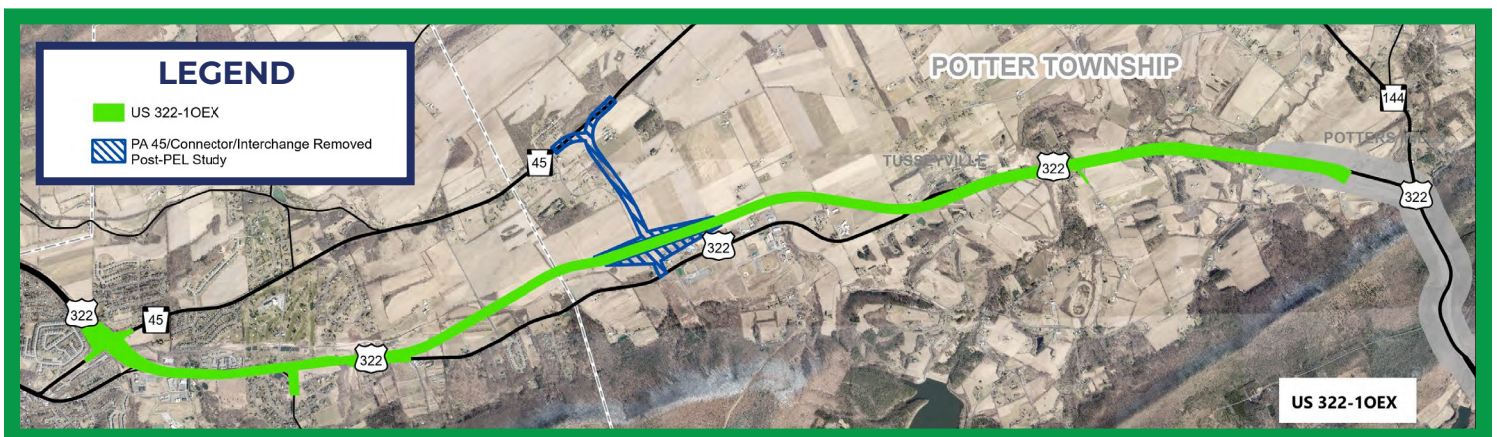
The refined alternative alignments will be presented at a second public meeting anticipated in early 2025. This meeting will identify the alternative alignments to be studied in the Draft EIS (DEIS) and present the draft recommended preferred alternative alignment. A public hearing will be held after the release of the Draft EIS for public and agency review. The Final EIS/Record of Decision is anticipated in June 2026.

STATE ROUTE 45 CONNECTOR REMOVED FROM PROJECT

As the traffic analysis and coordination with local officials advanced following the PEL Study, PennDOT and FHWA determined that the transportation issues identified along State Route 45 were independent of the US Route 322 corridor and should be studied separately. As a result, the SCAC project will only focus on the transportation needs and solutions for the 8-mile corridor of US Route 322 from Potters Mills Gap to Boalsburg in the NEPA Phase.

To advance the separation of the US Route 322 and State Route 45 as independent projects,

PennDOT announced the removal of the State Route 45 Connector from the SCAC project on January 19, 2024. Additionally, PennDOT announced that it is allocating up to \$3 million to study and address specific safety concerns identified on State Route 45 in Harris and Potter townships. The initial study will focus on the section of State Route 45 between Boal Avenue and the area slightly east of Old Fort. It will analyze existing conditions and identify potential safety, operational, and geometric upgrades.



NEW PENNDOT LEADERSHIP

PennDOT announced new Project Managers for the SCAC Project as it moves into the NEPA Phase. They are Eric Murnyack and Leigh Woolridge.

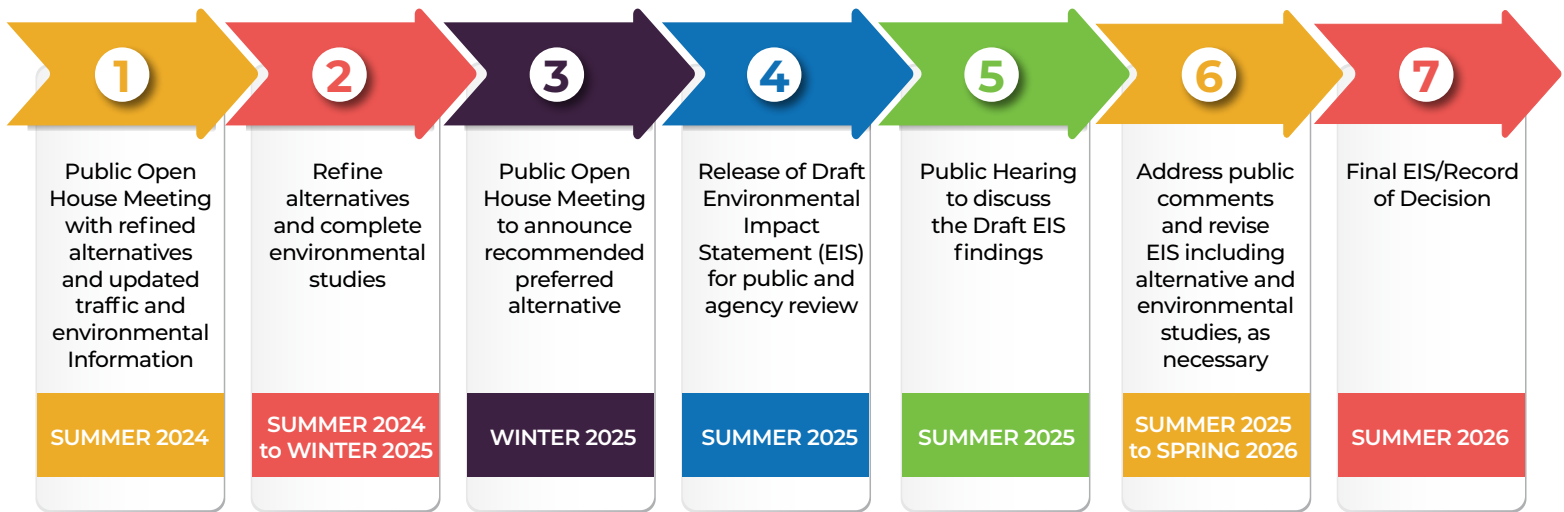


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SCHEDULE MILESTONES



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