

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PennDOT Announces Start of Project to Replace East Wall Street Bridge in Leesport

Allentown, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Engineering District 5 announced today work is scheduled to begin next week to replace the structurally deficient East Wall Street Bridge over the Schuylkill River in Leesport Borough, Berks County.

Starting Monday, October 30, East Wall Street will be closed to vehicles between Water Street and Chestnut Street/Railroad Avenue, and is expected to remain closed through December 2018. **The posted detour will utilize Route 61, Cross Keys Road and West Main Street.** Local access will be maintained for all property owners and businesses. Motorists are advised to expect delays and use caution traveling on the detour route.

A temporary pedestrian bridge will allow pedestrian access to be maintained across the Schuylkill River during the project.

The East Wall Street Bridge is a concrete arch bridge originally constructed in 1915 and reconstructed in 1969. It is 213 feet long and 24 feet wide. The new bridge will be a 214 feet long, 40 feet wide, pre-stressed concrete bulb T-beam bridge. This section of East Wall Street has an average daily traffic volume of 7,546 vehicles.

J.D. Eckman, Inc. of Atglen, Pa., is the general contractor on the \$4,795,101 project that is expected to be complete in May 2019.

For more information on projects occurring or being bid this year, those made possible by or accelerated by the state transportation funding plan (Act 89), or those on the department's Four and Twelve Year Plans, visit www.projects.penndot.gov.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, 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 850 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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