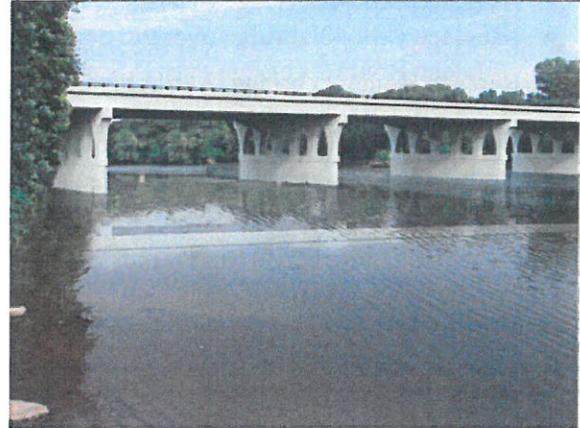


U.S. 422 BRIDGE OVER SCHUYLKILL RIVER & IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN PA 363 AND PA 23 INTERCHANGES

West Norriton Township – Upper Merion Township Montgomery County

A NEW U.S. 422 BRIDGE: Due to Act 89, Pennsylvania’s new transportation funding plan, PennDOT is advancing the project to rebuild and widen the U.S. 422 bridges over the Schuylkill River, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Indian Lane and the Schuylkill River Trail in West Norriton and Upper Merion townships, Montgomery County. This improvement is part of the Schuylkill River Crossing Complex of transportation improvement projects.



The Schuylkill River Crossing Complex consists of four separate projects to improve multi-modal travel and reduce congestion between the Route 363 (Trooper Road) and Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) interchanges.

The focal point of this program is the replacement and expansion of the U.S. 422 bridges and the widening of one mile of U.S. 422 between the Route 363 and Route 23 interchanges. This project, with an estimated construction cost of \$133 million, is currently in engineering design. Construction is expected to start in fall 2015. Without the passage of Act 89, construction would not have begun before 2018.

Each day 83,000 vehicles travel on U.S. 422’s four-lane structures, along with pedestrians and bicyclists who use the protected path alongside the highway’s eastbound lanes to cross the Schuylkill River. Traffic backups occur weekdays on U.S. 422 in the area of this Schuylkill River crossing.

The plan is to build new structures to carry U.S. 422 westbound traffic over the Schuylkill River, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Indian Lane and the Schuylkill River Trail. The existing U.S. 422 bridges will be rebuilt to provide new structures for eastbound travelers.

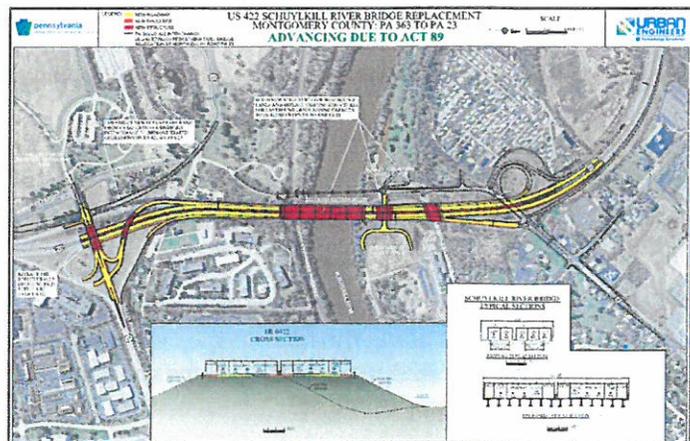
The existing U.S. 422 Schuylkill River Bridge is 72 feet wide. The new bridges will provide a total width of approximately 146 feet, wide enough for eight travel lanes. When initially opened, the new bridge will carry six lanes - three eastbound and three westbound. There will be two through lanes in each direction plus an auxiliary lane on both sides for motorists to use to travel between the Route 363 and Route 23 interchanges. A third through lane in each direction will be available for future use.

U.S. 422 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS:

Includes one mile of reconstruction and widening of U.S. 422 to provide three lanes in each direction between Route 363 and Route 23.

INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

Includes improvements to U.S. 422 West off-ramp to Route 363 and the Route 363 on-ramp to U.S. 422 East; replacing the Route 23 bridge over U.S. 422; realigning the U.S. 422 East off-ramp to Route 23 with the construction of a fly-over ramp; rebuilding 1,500 feet of Route 23 approaching the U.S. 422 Interchange; and improving the Route 23 on-ramp to U.S. 422 West.



ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS: Widening the U.S. 422 East off-ramp to First Avenue to accommodate two lanes and widening the intersection of North Gulph Road and First Avenue to accommodate a separate right-turn lane on southbound North Gulph Road at the intersection.

U.S. 422 SCHUYLKILL RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT DETAILS:

- Replace U.S. 422 bridges over the Schuylkill River and Norfolk Southern Railroad with twin bridges
- Replace U.S. 422 bridge over Indian Lane with twin bridges
- Replace U.S. 422 bridge over the Schuylkill River Trail with twin bridges
- Replace Route 23 bridge over U.S. 422
- Build new flyover off-ramp from U.S. 422 East to Route 23
- Rebuild and widen one-mile of U.S. 422
- Improve ramps at U.S. 422 interchanges at Route 363, Route 23 and First Avenue
- Project in Final Design
- Projected Construction Start – Fall 2015
- Projected Completion – 2019
- Estimated Construction cost - \$133 million
- New Schuylkill River Bridge Facts: Pre-Stressed Concrete structure; 785 feet long; 146 feet wide; 5 spans

EXISTING U.S. 422 SCHUYLKILL RIVER BRIDGE DATA:

- Built: 1965
- Width: 72 feet
- Length: 803 feet
- Spans: 8 (2 approach spans and 6 main spans)
- Average Daily Traffic Volume: 83,000
- Structure Type - Welded steel girder bridge, floor beam, stringer system
- Last Repaired: 2009 to keep the bridge structurally sound until new bridge is built
- 2009 Improvements: Repositioned median barrier to permit addition of third westbound lane; bridge deck repairs; new expansion joint; new guiderail; bridge beam repairs; expansion bearings reset and lubricated; new steel railing; and drainage system cleaning
- Sidewalk: 4-foot, 6-inch wide path on west side of the bridge
- Bridge Condition: Fair (Bridge Deck 6; Superstructure 5; Substructure 6)
- Structurally Deficient: No (U.S. 422 bridge over the Schuylkill River was structurally deficient until repairs were made in 2009.)

SCHUYLKILL RIVER CROSSING COMPLEX IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: Program consists of replacing the U.S. 422 bridges over the Schuylkill River and improving the highway between Route 363 and Route 23; building two additional ramps to complete the U.S. 422/Route 363 Interchange, a project that began construction in 2013; construction of the pedestrian/bicycle trail bridge over the Schuylkill River in Valley Forge National Historical Park, a project starting construction in spring 2014; and the relocation of North Gulph Road at Route 23 in VFNHP, which is expected to move to construction in 2019.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: U.S. 422 was opened in the mid-1960s between U.S. 202 and Route 363, and later extended towards Pottstown beginning in the mid-1970s. With development in the Valley Forge area and new developments extending west along U.S. 422, traffic congestion routinely impacts U.S. 422 commuters and motorists on adjacent roads as well.

The U.S. 422 river crossing at Valley Forge offers the only crossing of the Schuylkill River within two miles (and over three miles along the river to the I-476 crossing). This translates into an average of 83,000 vehicles per day that use U.S. 422 to cross the Schuylkill River, with a large portion of those vehicles either entering or exiting at Route 363 and Route 23.