



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2016

Route 23 Traffic Pattern Change Scheduled at U.S. 422 Interchange in Upper Merion Township

King of Prussia, PA – A traffic pattern change will be instituted on Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) at the U.S. 422 Interchange in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, on Thursday, November 3, for the start of construction to replace the bridge carrying Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) over U.S. 422, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) said today.

The replacement of the Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) structure is part of PennDOT's \$97.4 million project to build new, wider structures to improve travel on U.S. 422 at its crossings over the Schuylkill River, Norfolk Southern Railroad, South Trooper Road and the Schuylkill River Trail. The project also includes improving U.S. 422 between the Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) and Route 363 (Trooper Road) interchanges; upgrading Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) at its interchange with U.S. 422; and improving ramps at the Route 363 (Trooper Road), Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) and First Avenue interchanges.

Crews will work Thursday, November 3, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, to set concrete barriers in place and paint new traffic lines to move two lanes of westbound Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) traffic to the far right side of the road between the U.S. 422 west ramps and Gulph Road. Eastbound Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) will be reduced to one lane and the lane will shift to the center of the road where it passes through the U.S. 422 Interchange. This operation is dependent on the weather.

This traffic pattern on Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) will be in place through summer 2017.

PennDOT's contractor will remove and replace the Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) bridge one half at a time to maintain traffic on the bridge during construction. The new bridge is expected to be completed in late 2017.

The Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) bridge is a two-span, pre-stressed concrete beam structure that was built in 1965 and rehabilitated in 2006. It is 125 feet long and 85.5 feet wide. The bridge carries an average of 20,700 vehicles a day.

During this bridge replacement operation, the Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) on-ramp to U.S. 422 east is scheduled to close starting in spring 2017. The U.S. 422 east exit ramp to Route 23 (Valley Forge Road) will close later in 2017 after the on-ramp reopens to traffic.

Motorists are advised to allow additional time for travel on U.S. 422 during these operations because slowdowns may occur. The contractor's work schedule is dependent on the weather.

PennDOT began construction on this transportation improvement project in February 2016 and the project is scheduled to finish in May 2020. Without the passage of Act 89, Pennsylvania's transportation plan, construction on this project would not have begun before 2018.

J.D. Eckman, Inc. of Atglen, Chester County, is the general contractor on the \$97,380,711 contract, which is financed with 80 percent federal and 20 percent state funds.

For additional information on U.S. 422 improvement projects, visit www.422improvements.com.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway 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 770 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 more PennDOT information, visit www.penndot.gov. Follow local PennDOT Information on Twitter at www.twitter.com/511PAPhilly, and follow the department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pennsylvaniadepartmentoftransportation and Instagram at www.instagram.com/pennsylvaniadot.

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