



NEWS

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Groundbreaking Marks Beginning Of Lafayette Street Corridor Construction

Norristown, PA (September 9, 2013) – The long-awaited and much-anticipated Lafayette Street corridor extension linking Norristown and Plymouth Township officially got underway Monday when elected officials and civic and business leaders got together for a groundbreaking at Lafayette Street’s current eastern terminus at Ford Street in Norristown.

Lafayette Street will be extended six-tenths of a mile to connect to Conshohocken Road in Plymouth Township near the intersection with Diamond Street. The Lafayette Street extension will feature two lanes in each direction and a landscaped 12-foot median. This first-phase of a long-term, three-phase project will cost \$11.5 million and will take about 15 months, according to officials.

“This project is critical to both Plymouth and Norristown,” said Josh Shapiro, chairman of the Montgomery County Commissioners. “It will improve access to both municipalities, increase traffic flow and reduce congestion on Ridge Pike and Main Street and will encourage development of Norristown’s downtown and its under-utilized riverfront area.”

The project is being funded by 80 percent federal funds and 20 percent county funds. The general contractor is Allan A. Myers, Inc. of Worcester. Construction actually began in August with utility work around the Ross Road area where a new bridge has to be constructed.

The Lafayette Street extension has been in the planning stages since 2000 when the first federal funds were secured. “The fact that this project is now underway is a testament to its importance. While many long-term projects die on the vine, this one has stood the test of time and is coming to fruition,” said Montgomery County Commissioner Leslie Richards.

“This project will mean a great deal to Norristown and Plymouth and in large part is a result of hard work and commitment by officials of both Norristown and Plymouth, a series of county administrations and strong federal support,” Richards said.

During the course of the construction, the Schuylkill River Trail, which parallels the extension, will be relocated and rebuilt.

Future phases of the Lafayette Street project will extend into 2017. Those phases will close the current connection of Conshohocken Road with Ridge Pike; widen Diamond Avenue and create a new intersection with Ridge Pike at Diamond; widen Ridge Pike from the Pennsylvania Turnpike bridge to the Norristown-Plymouth border at Ross Street; and widen the existing Lafayette Street from Barbadoes Street to Ford Street.