



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ribbon-Cutting Launches Completion of Lafayette Street Extension Project in Norristown *The \$90 million project is considered the largest local infrastructure project in the Commonwealth*

Norristown, PA (November 1, 2019) – Federal, state, and local officials celebrated today the opening of the Lafayette Street Extension, considered to be the largest local infrastructure project in the Commonwealth. Completion of the \$90 million project will connect downtown Norristown, the County Government Complex, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Norristown Transportation Center to the regional highway system, help spur economic development in Norristown and Plymouth Township, and relieve area traffic congestion.

The extension is complete from Conshohocken to Dekalb Streets.

“All of the smart investments we are making today to upgrade and redesign streets, sidewalks, and trails will pay off for Montgomery County residents for the next 100 years,” said Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair, Montgomery County Commissioners. “I am proud to have been a part of the 20-year bipartisan collaboration of Montgomery County, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration to modernize downtown Norristown and prepare it for future growth.”

Pedestrians, trail users, and transit riders will soon enjoy increased vehicle lanes, widened sidewalks, landscaped medians, and a safe pedestrian crossing at the SEPTA Norristown Transportation Center. Two of the region’s most heavily traveled commuter and recreational trails, Schuylkill River and Chester Valley Trails, will also be connected for easy intercounty travel.

“Connecting Norristown and Plymouth directly to the Pennsylvania Turnpike network will create more efficiency and encourage more people to visit for shopping and recreation,” said Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Vice Chair, Montgomery County Commissioners.

Managed by Montgomery County, the project relied on the oversight and expertise of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, who paid \$72 million towards the project with Montgomery County footing the remaining \$18 million.

Leslie Richards, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, said she was glad to see the extension finally come to fruition and the Commonwealth go from building bridges to building communities.

Project improvements are already reducing congestion in the area.

“More than 75,000 cars pass the location of the future Lafayette Street-PA Turnpike interchange each day,” said Joseph C. Gale, Montgomery County Commissioner. “I’m glad these improvements will make this area more safe, more attractive, more accessible, and more efficient for traveling.”



Cutline

Pennsylvania state, county, and local officials cut the ribbon on the largest infrastructure project in the Commonwealth — the Lafayette Extension in Norristown, which will connect downtown Norristown, the County Government Campus, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Norristown Transportation Center to the regional highway system. (Photo/Teresa Harris)