

Montgomery County readies for Phase 3 of Lafayette Street project



A northbound view from the stretch of Diamond Avenue across Ridge Pike in Plymouth Township, June 20, 2016. Digital First Media File Photo

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NORRISTOWN >> The Montgomery County commissioners approved two resolutions in preparation for Phase 3 of the Lafayette Street Extension Project.

“The third phase of this project is supposed to be advertised and set for spring. For us to do that, we have to have a construction inspection team in place,” said Matt Edmonds, the county’s Planning Commission section chief on transportation.

Commissioners unanimously approved a contract with Pennoni Associates Inc. for \$2,034,251.16 for construction inspection services. According to the resolution, 80 percent of the funds are reimbursable with federal highway funds, while the remaining 20 percent will come from the county’s capital fund.

A second resolution approved a reimbursement agreement with utility companies. During the course of construction, the county's contractors will do some utility casting work on behalf of PECO, Verizon and the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority, and will be reimbursed for that work from the utility companies.

"It is more efficient to have our eventual contractors build these entry points as part of their roadway work while the utilities themselves build all the underground utility work themselves on their own time," Edmonds said.

The project aims to improve access to Norristown's Main Street and reduce congestion on Ridge Pike in Plymouth Meeting. The \$100 million project has five total phases. The third phase will widen Lafayette Street and relocate the Schuylkill River Trail. Phase 4 will see the interchange with the PA Turnpike and Phase 5 will complete an interchange with Route 202.



Workers widen Ridge Pike near School Lane in Plymouth as part of Lafayette Street Expansion Project in Plymouth April 6, 2016. Digital First Media File Photo