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Extension of Lafayette Street, Norristown, on time and under budget

By [Carl Rotenberg](#), *The Times Herald*

POSTED: 07/22/14, 5:55 PM EDT



Work on the Lafayette Street extension project continues in Norristown Tuesday, July 22, 2014. Photo by Gene Walsh/Times Herald Staff.

NORRISTOWN — Eleven months into the 15-month, \$11.5 million extension and widening of Lafayette Street into Plymouth, the Phase I project is within budget and on schedule for completion in November.

[View a photo gallery of the construction.](#)

“The project is on time,” said Montgomery County commissioners’ Chairman Josh Shapiro. “There have been some change orders that have been routine. The county has the resources for the project.”

Shapiro headlined a groundbreaking for the project nearly one year ago near the intersection of Lafayette and Ford streets.

“This is transformational for both Norristown and Montgomery County,” Shapiro said. “It is the most important infrastructure project we are doing in the county. We believe in Norristown.”

The contract with Allan A. Myers Inc. of Worcester will extend the existing Lafayette Street from Ford Street in Norristown to Conshohocken Road and widen it to four lanes. The 0.6-mile extension will have two lanes in each direction and a 12-foot-wide, landscaped median in the center. Construction on the project started on Aug. 12, 2013, in the Ross Street area with work on relocating sewer, natural gas and power lines.

Construction on the 0.6-mile extension of Lafayette Street will be completed in late fall, but it will not be opened to traffic until Phase II, an \$11 million to 15 million Lafayette Road extension, is completed in spring 2016.

The second project will extend Lafayette Street to Diamond Avenue in Plymouth, and then reconstruct and widen Diamond Avenue, along with a section of Ridge Pike, from the Pennsylvania Turnpike bridge to the Norristown border at Ross Street. As part of Phase II, the Conshohocken Road connection to Ridge Pike will be abandoned, and the Diamond Avenue intersection with Ridge Pike will replace it with a new traffic light.

A third contract to widen Lafayette Street, from Ford to Barbadoes Street, has not been funded yet. A proposal to build a slip ramp from the Pennsylvania Turnpike to the Lafayette Street extension must be funded by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

“I have met multiple times with the chief executive officer of the turnpike,” Shapiro said, “We have had positive feedback. I am cautiously optimistic.”