

**RIDGE ROAD AND
THE CENTRAL SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION (CSV) PROJECT
MARCH 2015**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does the CSV Project include an interchange connecting the new highway to PA 147 in Point Township?

The need for a full interchange east of the West Branch Susquehanna River was originally identified in the late 1990's during the extensive public outreach conducted for the CSV Project in order to improve safety, reduce congestion, and accommodate growth. Without the interchange, the project would not be as effective in reducing traffic volumes on the congested primary roadways of US 11, US 15, and PA 147 (such as in Northumberland Borough), and it could cause additional traffic concerns on other roadways in the surrounding area (such as PA 45 and PA 405).

How was the proposed design of the interchange connecting the new highway to PA 147 established?

As documented in the project's July 2003 Final Environmental Impact Statement, various highway alignment alternatives were studied. Each of the alternatives included an interchange connecting the new highway to PA 147 that was located in the general vicinity of Ridge Road and was designed to meet appropriate highway engineering criteria.

The proposed alignment for the Northern Section, including the interchange connecting the new highway to PA 147 via Ridge Road, was selected as the preferred alternative because it best balances impacts to all community, natural, and cultural resources. In particular, the proposed alignment has the least impact to residences and businesses, does not require river bridge piers to be placed on a geologic formation prone to sinkholes, avoids areas of high probability archaeology, provides the best alignment for an interchange east of the river, and has the lowest project cost.

Will traffic be directed to use Ridge Road as a connection between the new highway and US 11 (east of Northumberland Borough)?

No. No signs are proposed that would direct traffic to use Ridge Road as a connection between the new highway and US 11 upon completion of the CSV Project.

Will the CSV Project cause the traffic volume on Ridge Road to increase?

The CSV Project, as well as other planned future transportation improvements, will reduce overall congestion within Northumberland Borough and thereby encourage motorists travelling between the new highway and US 11 to travel through the borough rather than use Ridge Road. Furthermore, through traffic is likely to continue using a numbered traffic route (US 11 and/or PA 147) rather than to travel approximately 6 miles on an unnumbered road (Ridge Road) to/from the new highway.

Nevertheless, some increase in traffic on Ridge Road (above the most recently counted volume of 1,384 vehicles each day) is likely to occur as new travel patterns are established. The future traffic volume has not yet been estimated, but the increase in traffic on Ridge Road caused by the CSV Project is anticipated to be manageable through minor roadway improvements (not "tenfold" as suggested in recent news stories).

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What further studies and coordination related to Ridge Road will be performed as part of the CSVT Project?

While completing the final design of the CSVT Project's Northern Section, PennDOT will perform engineering studies and public coordination that are necessary to estimate the future traffic volume on Ridge Road. Specifically, PennDOT collected relevant traffic data on Ridge Road in January 2015 and will coordinate with Point Township officials later in 2015 to obtain information related to future land uses/development planned in the surrounding area.

The current traffic data and future land use information will be used in traffic projection models to estimate the future traffic volume on Ridge Road. With that estimate and considering the input and concerns received from township officials and local property owners, PennDOT will then perform preliminary engineering design and environmental studies to determine what potential improvements to Ridge Road are feasible.

What future improvements will be made to Ridge Road and when will they be completed?

No specific measures to improve Ridge Road have been identified to date, as PennDOT must first perform the studies and coordination described above to determine what improvements may be needed. While several years may be required to complete those activities, improvements to Ridge Road would ultimately be implemented near the completion of the CSVT Project, which is currently anticipated by 2024.

At this time, improvements that would significantly change the existing characteristics of Ridge Road are not anticipated. For example, the measures may include pavement resurfacing, shoulder widening, and/or minor curve improvements, but the addition of lanes, significant realignment, or changes to the posted speed limit are not anticipated. Any potential improvements will be carefully reviewed related to whether they would encourage motorists to use Ridge Road as a connection between the new highway and US 11.

How will further information related to Ridge Road (including plans for future improvements) be shared with the public?

Since transportation improvements must be designed based on surrounding land uses (which are controlled by the local municipality), PennDOT will work closely with Point Township officials as final design of the CSVT Project's Northern Section proceeds. After receiving information on planned future land uses/development, PennDOT will review traffic projection model results and potential improvements to Ridge Road with township officials.

However, before any improvements to Ridge Road are ultimately implemented, PennDOT will coordinate with local property owners via newsletters, the CSVT Project website (www.csvt.com), and/or additional meetings.