

Neighbors Safety

The safety and protection of neighbors are prime considerations in construction projects. If a neighbor witnesses an issue or notices unauthorized activities within construction areas, they should immediately contact:

For additional information on this project or other PA Turnpike Design & Construction Projects visit:

[www.paturnpike.com/travel/
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UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Highway construction is a complicated process that involves many tasks. Some of these, by nature, have an impact on nearby properties. To minimize these impacts, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission works closely with contractors, homeowners and businesses while construction is in progress. The PA Turnpike is dedicated to protecting property owners and completing projects in a safe and timely manner.

This brochure describes some temporary inconveniences that may be experienced by property owners within the vicinity of road construction projects. It also provides contact information on the back if you have any questions or concerns regarding the construction process in your community.

Minimizing Disruptions

The goal of the PA Turnpike and its contractors is to minimize disruptions as part of our construction and safety process. The types of disruptions that may occur as part of the construction process are described here.

Blasting

Blasting is an efficient method of breaking rock for highway construction. The process is regulated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is supervised by licensed personnel. Blasting shortens construction time and reduces long-term disruptions to neighbors.

During the blasting process, explosives are used to fracture the rock. This fracturing occurs no farther than 20 to 30 feet from the blast hole, depending on the size of the rock and the explosives used. More than 90 percent of the energy from the blast is expended in breaking rock, which is then removed. The remaining energy is absorbed into the ground, creating vibrations and noise that flow from the blast center.

Vibrations are a temporary disturbance associated with blasting - like waves created by a rock thrown into a pond.

The speed and force decrease as the waves flow from the blast center. The PA Turnpike usually requires contractors to monitor ground and air vibrations with seismographs to check that the contractor is operating within allowable limits. Property owners adjacent to blasting activities may be asked to allow the placement of a seismograph on the property. Seismographs are typically placed in several locations near the closest buildings.

Pre-Blast Surveys

As with most major construction projects, property owners within 1,000 feet of the blasting operations are strongly encouraged to participate in a pre-blast survey. The inspection takes approximately one hour for typical residential homes and is conducted at no cost to the home owner. The survey includes infor-



mation about the interior and exterior of the building and documents the general condition before blasting. In order to participate in the survey, property owners must allow independent consultants to enter. Although damage from blasting is not anticipated, precautions are taken to protect buildings. Project contractors are dedicated to the safety of residents in construction areas and use the following safety procedures:

1. Blasting Notification - Property owners and institutions both public and private will be notified of actual blasting activities through one or more of the following methods:

- Mailing of pre-blast survey letters to residents within 1,000 feet of blasting areas
- Publication of blasting schedules in local newspaper
- Series of distinct, audible alarms sounded at scheduled intervals several minutes prior to the blast warning everyone in the immediate area

2. Temporary Road Closures - Roads near the blasting area may be closed for safety reasons.

These temporary closures may last several minutes, but they ensure the safety of motorists by limiting or preventing their exposure to these blasting areas.

Dust and Mud Control

Dust and mud are side effects of construction. While contractors may not be able to prevent the accumulation of dust, measures such as spraying water within the construction sites are taken to try and contain it within project boundaries. Adjacent roadways are cleaned on an as-needed basis.



Noise

Noise goes hand-in-hand with construction. It is virtually impossible to excavate or build without creating sound waves that the human ear hears as noise. Pile-driving, back-up alarms, earth moving equipment and other construction-related operations are often identified as noise generators.

Pile-driving is a technique used to pound steel columns into the ground to support structures such as bridges. It generates a repeated hammer noise and will cause vibrations.

Construction does occur at night because of efficiency and cost considerations. While it may be noisy, working at night minimizes the inconvenience (or disturbance) to residents by significantly cutting the number of days required to complete the work.

The Turnpike Commission is committed to minimizing disruption to residents, business owners and the traveling public, therefore; it asks its contractors to make every effort to minimize the effect of noise on the surrounding community. Contractors are directed to keep construction activities within accepted noise levels established by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These allowable noise levels vary depending on the time of day.

Detours

During construction, some local roadways may be entirely or partially closed to traffic in order to keep motorists and construction crews safe. It is also necessary to close some roadways if project plans require a portion of the roadway to be rebuilt or realigned in some way. The detour routes are always discussed and planned with local municipalities and PennDOT. Any detours needed will be posted and the information given to the local municipalities and media.



Questions or Comments About Construction?

To keep neighbors better informed, representatives of the PA Turnpike and the project construction management team meet with the community prior to construction to address questions about the project.

The PA Turnpike wants to hear neighbors' questions regarding inconveniences or potential damage to property related to the road construction. A list of personnel associated with the project and their contact information will be provided during the community meeting.

In order for complaints to be handled properly and efficiently, property owners should contact the project manager immediately. Once a complaint is reported, an independent consultant will visit the property owner, assess any possible damage, evaluate the claim and discuss next steps.

