



TUSCARORA TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE

AUGUST 2022

Work is nearing completion in the eastbound tunnel. We plan to continue weekly closures through the month of August depending on traffic conditions. Throughout the summer, weekly closures begin each Sunday night at 9 p.m. and end each Thursday by noon. During the eastbound tunnel closures, a single lane of eastbound traffic is diverted into the westbound tunnel. The westbound tunnel operates with bi-directional traffic during these weekly closures.

Over the past few months, the contractor has completed the shotcrete operations in the eastbound tunnel as well as the full depth approach paving work at each end of the tunnel and new wearing course for the length of the eastbound tunnel. The 100-mil thick concrete protective coating is also being applied to the shotcrete walls and roadway barrier throughout the eastbound tunnel. Over the next few months new manhole frames and grates will be installed in the roadway of the eastbound tunnel. Installation of the manhole frames and castings have been delayed due to material delivery issues but are now available.

The electrical contractor has been installing the new lighting system including conduits, wiring, and junction boxes that are the length of the eastbound tunnel. This summer they will continue to install the life safety systems throughout the eastbound tunnel including CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) cameras, carbon monoxide monitors, fire alarms, dynamic message signs, lane control signs, and safety signs. The proposed SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system has been going through the last of the FAT (Factory Acceptance Tests) and next will be installed in the portal buildings. The new SCADA system will then be connected to the various life safety systems including the new axial fans that have been installed in the tunnel.

Over the next few months, the contractor will be addressing added work at the east side of the tunnels to replace the façade with a more maintenance free system. As the SCADA system is brought online the new axial fans will be activated which in combination of the newly installed Saccardo nozzles which will provide a more efficient ventilation system in the tunnels. As the two new fans at each end of the tunnel are brought online the last of the existing fans will be removed making room for installation of the third new fan at each end of the tunnel.

By early fall of 2022, the work in the eastbound tunnel is expected to be completed and then work will begin in the westbound tunnel. During the westbound tunnel closures, a single lane of westbound traffic is diverted into the eastbound tunnel. The eastbound tunnel operates with bi-directional traffic during these weekly closures. These weekly closures will begin each Sunday night at 9 p.m. and end each Friday by noon.

Since the westbound tunnel is newer and in better condition, waterproofing and a shotcrete liner will not be needed. There will be a new drainage system added to the walls and new inlets along each side of the roadway. There will also be repairs performed to the tile walls and to the surface of the roadway barriers. Although most of the westbound tunnel ceiling will remain, there will be sections of the ceiling at each end of the tunnel that will be reconstructed to allow installation of the Saccardo nozzles along with the new axial ventilation fans. A completely new communications and life safety system will also be installed throughout the westbound tunnel similar to what is being installed in the eastbound tunnel.