



# TUSCARORA TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE

## OCTOBER 2020

Work is continuing in the eastbound tunnel with weekly closures. These weekly closures begin each Sunday night at 9 p.m. and reopen each Friday 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 the weekly closures.

Over the past several months, the contractor has been installing the waterproofing system at the proposed concrete roadway barrier on the left side of the tunnel. This includes placement of the reinforcing steel, conduit, and junction boxes for the concrete barrier. The concrete ceiling at each end of the tunnel has been reconstructed for the first several hundred feet. This new ceiling will allow placement of the saccardo nozzles that will more efficiently direct air through the tunnel.

At the portal buildings located at each end of the tunnel, the contractor continues façade repairs as well as upgrades to the complete electrical and mechanical systems throughout the buildings. Work has also continued in the plenum of the westbound tunnel where new conduit and junction boxes are being installed in preparation for the lighting, fire and life safety systems.

The contractor is continuing to prepare shop drawings for customized manufactured items such as the new tunnel ventilation fans, emergency generators, work plans for the waterproofing and shotcrete operations and Tunnel Control System (TCS) including closed circuit television (CCTVs). When the TCS is eventually installed, it will provide a state-of-the-art upgrade of the communications and life safety systems in the tunnels.

During the next several months, the contractor will construct the concrete roadway barrier along the left side of the eastbound tunnel followed by temporary bituminous paving. At this point traffic will be shifted to the left side of the tunnel to allow work to begin on the right side.

After the traffic is shifted, the contractor will excavate and construct the new inlets along the right side of the tunnel. The placement of the waterproofing system will follow and then construction of the concrete roadway barrier. The contractor will also begin demolition of the existing fans in anticipation of installing new vane axial fans with new foundations.

In the spring of 2021 when the concrete roadway barrier on the right is completed, the installation of the waterproofing will begin on the walls and tunnel arch followed by the shotcrete operations. This stage will be the most time-consuming process of the Project. The work will proceed at 3 to 4 panels per week beginning in the spring of 2021 with completion anticipated in early 2022.

Work will continue over the winter with weekly tunnel closures except during the holiday periods when work will be suspended.