



TUSCARORA TUNNEL PROJECT UPDATE

JULY 2023

Work is more than halfway complete in the westbound tunnel. We plan to continue weekly closures through the months of July and August beginning each Sunday night at 9 pm and ending each Thursday by noon. 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.

Over the past few months, the contractor has installed new drainage at the tunnel panel joints every 50' in the tunnel, and then applied foam spray coating and shotcrete back to the original tunnel wall. Currently and over the next couple of months new horizontal drainage is being installed on top of the existing barrier along each wall and then will be encased in concrete. Replacement of tile on the tunnel walls is also occurring, along with crack injection repairs both on the walls and in the arch ceiling.

The electrical contractor has been installing the new lighting system including conduits, wiring and junction boxes that run the length of the westbound tunnel. This summer they will be removing the old sodium lights and installing new LED lights on both walls. They also continue to install the life safety systems through the westbound tunnel including CCTV (closed circuit television) cameras, carbon monoxide monitors, fire alarms, safety signs and new dynamic message signs at both ends. They are wiring the remaining new axial fans that are currently being installed. The SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system is running throughout the tunnel and the new safety systems are being wired into the system once they are installed.

Also this summer, the contractor will be completing added work at the east side of the tunnels to replace the old brick façade with a more maintenance free system. The remaining axial fans, dampers and ductwork will be activated which in combination with new Saccardo nozzles will provide a more efficient ventilation system in the tunnels.

In early fall 2023, full depth reconstruction of the east and west end approaches to the westbound tunnel will occur over a period of three weeks, with westbound closures from Sunday 9 pm to Friday noon. Once the approaches are complete, the pavement inside the tunnel will be milled and paved and new pavement markings will be applied.

Following completion of the westbound pavement, the existing concrete polymer barrier covers will be removed and replaced. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in late 2023, after which tunnel closures will flip back to the eastbound tunnel so that temporary lighting controls are removed, the AI component of the CCTV cameras can be incorporated into the SCADA system, and bi-tunnel testing and commissioning of the full SCADA system can occur. It is anticipated that the tunnel will be reopened full-time to unrestricted traffic in early 2024.