

Delaware Department of Transportation

EVERY TRIP. EVERY MODE. EVERY DOLLAR. EVERYONE.

Q & A from 11/12/20 I-95 Virtual Public Meeting

1. Will you be adding lights to the bridges?

We are working with the city regarding lighting and will look to do enhancements once the mainline contract is completed.

2. What are the highest risks to the project and what is the plan to mitigate them?

Coordination with Amtrak was important and use of a construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC) to do breakout contracts to do work in advance of mainline construction and streamline total project as much as possible. We are dealing with a major corridor – we don't want surprises and have been doing a lot of testing to ensure there are no surprises. We are well informed of the condition of all the structures we will be working on.

3. Are you going to take over Brandywine Park during this work and for how long?

We won't be taking over the park but there will be minor impacts and areas cordoned off for safety and some detours for trails while portions are shut down during construction. The park itself will remain open.

4. What improvements will be made to Concord Ave. and Broom St.?

This intersection is included with the traffic signals that DelDOT is taking over. Specific signal timing plans for the area around Concord Ave. are being developed for traffic coming into and leaving the city.

5. Will pedestrian access on bridges over I-95 be impacted?

We do not anticipate any impact to these areas.

6. Will the slide presentation be made available?

Yes, we will provide it on the website under the public meeting section.

7. Not clear if you are closing a lane along SB I-95 north of US 202.

No, we will only be closing the lane south of US 202.



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8. Are any construction projects going on in parallel on 495/with major construction on 95? Do we have construction on 495 as well?

We outlined work that would be needed on alternate routes prior to the I-95 project beginning. The work on 495 will be completed in advance of this project and we will not schedule any additional work on 495 during this project. However, there is always a chance of issues like potholes and minor issues that develop that would need to be addressed.

9. Will there be tow trucks staged to get break downs/accidents off quickly?

Yes, this is part of the incident response plan we are working on.

10. Can you can revisit the signal timing of the light at 3rd and Jackson Street? The time is way too long to cross Jackson and people are running the light. This is very dangerous. Please reprogram this light.

Yes, we will look at this and will be monitoring it in real time. Please let us know when you see something and we can look into it.

11. Will alternate routes be construction free?

Yes, we have been doing as much work as possible on routes that we anticipate will see increased traffic. These include \$40 million of paving and rehab projects around the city and other projects such as the MLK/Walnut realignment, completing the 12th Street and Northeast Blvd. intersection improvements, the Carr/Marsh Road project, and having the portion of the 141/95 interchange project that impacts the interstate completed as this project gets underway.

12. There was major community interest in bridging the west and east sides of 95 by use of caps on 95. Is this happening?

This is not part of this project; however, we are working with city and community associations on thoughts and ideas for the existing overpasses of I-95. We think there are opportunities to increase the size of the non-motorized area. The capping idea can be approached later but funding is not available at this time.

13. Are the Marsh Road ramps going to be affected by this?

There will be no closures, but we do anticipate increased traffic on these ramps.

14. Are there any increased risks of flooding or other land impacts due to the construction in phase 1?

No, we do not anticipate increased risks of flooding.



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15. Do you feed GPS traffic services?

Yes.

16. What is your best guess about how traffic will be impacted on alternative routes? Are any mitigation measures in place on alternative routes? I'm particularly interested in routes between Wilmington and Newark, e.g. Kirkwood Highway.

We will be monitoring timing on areas roads and making adjustments to signal timing to accommodate additional traffic and providing updates on commute times as well.

17. Are public transit times impacted (i.e. bus route times)? Assuming they are, do you have plans to create awareness about the plans and adjusted schedules to those who may not have access to this presentation or to Wi-Fi/phone apps?

Yes, and we do have real time boards at select bus stops that will provide updates on arrival times.

18. What level of noise day and night is expected during the construction? At this time neighborhoods on the West Side are already affected by the highway noise. Are measures in place or planned for noise abatement?

We are sensitive to the amount of noise that construction creates and will be working to mitigate this as much as possible including doing noisiest work during daytime hours. It is not something that can fully be eliminated unfortunately.

19. With the addition of a lane south of the Route 202 exit, will noise barriers be installed?

No, as we are not adding additional capacity to the road.

20. Will workers be required to wear fall protection if they are working near edges or areas they can fall?

Yes.

21. Where are you with the 3rd rail for SEPTA and also the new MARC service?

DelDOT and DART have completed their portions of the 3rd rail project and Amtrak is working to complete their portion. MARC continues to be discussed regionally though no definitive plan to connect MARC to Newark has been finalized.



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22. What has been learned from the 141 project and have any lessons been applied to this project?

Communication and public outreach have been important. There have been two separate projects on 141 to rebuild all the bridges and we are using large prefabricated pieces to make construction faster.

23. Do you have any update for Newark or is this only for Wilmington?

Please contact DelDOT's public relations team (DOTPR@delaware.gov) for questions specific to Newark.

24. Worried about using salt during winter weather. In past years salt has damaged the environment. What steps are being implemented to monitor salt runoff?

There are national studies about the impact of salt use but this is outside the scope of this project.

25. With no increased capacity after this project, is the capacity right sized for 30 years?

This project is more safety and system preservation focused than capacity focused. While I-95 may be at capacity, I-495 is under capacity. We are working to increase safety throughout this corridor.

26. What is the best way to contact you during the project if we have immediate traffic concerns? Through the DelDOT TMC phone line?

Yes, that is correct, #77 to call TMC which is staffed 24/7.

27. Can you add SIRIUS to the GPS traffic service? I've come to 141 closed ramps and the traffic service didn't know. I can also check WAYZ / GOOGLE as you mentioned.

We will check into this and see if we can accommodate the request.

28. I saw a lane is being added to the Christiana Bridge north bound.

We are reconstructing the shoulder to accommodate the traffic shift as part of this project. However, we are not adding lanes to any bridges crossing the Christina River.



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