

Pennsylvania Turnpike: statewide reconstruction initiative

By Tom Barnes

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HARRISBURG — If it seems like there's been a lot of reconstruction going on along the Pennsylvania Turnpike, it's because there has.

Since 2000, a total of 28 projects have been completed, gotten underway or are still in the planning stages along the 360-mile main line from Ohio to New Jersey and the 110-mile Northeastern Extension from Norristown up to Scranton.

Turnpike officials call it a "statewide total reconstruction initiative." Road work has been going on for 10 years, but turnpike officials recently released a map of all projects on the agenda until 2020. The work includes replacing bridges over the Allegheny and Susquehanna rivers.

The first redone section, from mileposts 94 to 99 in Western Pennsylvania, was completed in 2000 and cost \$31 million. Instead of just "milling," or removing a few top inches of pavement, the reconstruction goes all the

way down to "subgrade," aka dirt — some in areas of the original turnpike, which opened in 1940 from Carlisle to Irwin.

The price for each section includes engineering and design, acquisition of rights of way and relocation of utility lines in some cases, labor, equipment and the cost of asphalt, concrete and other materials.

The cost of a total rebuilding is obviously higher than just replacing a couple inches of surface pavement, but turnpike spokesman Bill Capone said the work will improve drainage so water doesn't get under the surface pavement and lead to early deterioration.

When the dirt roadbed is reached, six inches of stone "aggregate" is put down as a sub-base, and then topped by four inches of asphalt "permeable base." That is topped by 10 inches of bituminous concrete; that is covered with five inches of "superpave" material.

In the sections that are being rebuilt, work also includes adding a third lane in each direction, meaning those areas of the turnpike will have three lanes eastbound and three lanes westbound, Mr. Capone said. Medians also are being widened.



KEY

- Toll booth
- Tunnel
- Bridge

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|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1 Mileposts 0-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express E-ZPass lanes at the Gateway Toll Plaza • Elimination of westbound tolls • Widened to six lanes <p>Completion: 2009
Cost: \$135 million</p> <p>2 Mileposts 12-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaver Ridge Bridge • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: 2017
Cost: \$150 million</p> <p>3 Mileposts 31-38</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: 2012
Cost: \$131 million</p> <p>4 Mileposts 40-48</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: 2020
Cost: \$200 million</p> | <p>5 Mileposts 40-50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of the Allegheny River Bridge <p>Completed: 2010
Cost: \$194 million</p> <p>6 Mileposts 67-75</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realign roadway • Reconstruct of Interchange 75 • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: 2011
Cost: \$152 million</p> <p>7 Mileposts 76-85</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of four lanes and a fifth truck climbing lane <p>Completed: 2002
Cost: \$75 million</p> <p>8 Mileposts 85-94</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of four lanes and fifth truck climbing lane <p>Completion: 2005
Cost: \$74 million</p> | <p>9 Mileposts 94-99</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of two westbound and three eastbound lanes • Additional third westbound truck climbing lane <p>Completion: 2000
Cost: \$31 million</p> <p>10 Mileposts 99-109</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening of six-mile section <p>Completion: 2017
Cost: \$160 million</p> <p>11 Mileposts 109-121</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of four lanes and fifth truck climbing lane <p>Completion: 2005
Cost: \$74 million</p> <p>12 Mileposts 124-128</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two eastbound lanes • Realignment of three westbound lanes to eliminate substandard | <p>curves approaching the Allegheny Tunnel</p> <p>Completion: 2008
Cost: \$40 million</p> <p>13 Mileposts 128-133.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove New Baltimore landslide • Reconstruct section between MP 125-129 • Six lane widening from MP 129-133.5 <p>Completion: 2020
Cost: \$160 million</p> <p>14 Mileposts 149.5-155.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: 2020
Cost: \$136 million</p> <p>15 Mileposts 180-186</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes from interchange 180 <p>Completion: TBD
Cost: \$150 million</p> | <p>16 Mileposts 187-197</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruction of four lanes between Tuscarora and Kittatinny tunnels <p>Completion: 2001
Cost: \$58 million</p> <p>17 Mileposts 199-227</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes from the Blue Mountain Tunnel to Interchange 226 <p>Completion: 2020
Cost: \$350 million</p> <p>18 Mileposts 242-245</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes from Interchange 242 to the Susquehanna River Bridge <p>Completion: 2017
Cost \$70 million</p> <p>19 Mileposts 245-247</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced Susquehanna River Bridge, approach roadways and Interchange 247 • Widened to six lanes <p>Completion: 2008
Cost: \$155 million</p> | <p>20 Mileposts 250-252</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes • Replace Swatara Creek Bridge <p>Completion: 2015
Cost: \$205 million</p> <p>21 Mileposts 312-319</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes from Interchange 312 to MP 319 <p>Completion: TBD
Cost: \$210 million</p> <p>22 Mileposts 320-326</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: 2015
Cost: \$205 million</p> <p>23 Mileposts 326-333</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: 2006, 2008
Cost: \$200 million</p> <p>24 Mileposts 351-359</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes • New Delaware River Bridge <p>Completion: TBD
Cost: \$1 billion</p> | <p>25 Mileposts A20-A30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes the Northeastern Extension <p>Completion: 2015
Cost: \$300 million</p> <p>26 Mileposts A30-A31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: TBD
Cost: \$30 million</p> <p>27 Mileposts A31-A37.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widen to six lanes <p>Completion: TBD
Cost: \$30 million</p> <p>28 Mileposts A73.5-A75.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of Lehigh River/Pohopoco Creek Bridge with the option to expand to six lanes in the future <p>Completion: 2012
Cost: \$102 million</p> |
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