

Bayfront Parkway Central Corridor Improvement Project Newsletter

Creating a Stronger Connection between Downtown Erie and the Waterfront



April 2024 Vol. 5 No. 1

Plans Available for Upcoming Safety Project along Eastern Portion of the Bayfront Parkway

PennDOT invites the public to a virtual plans display for the upcoming safety project on the East Bayfront Parkway from Port Access Road to East 12th Street in the City of Erie, Erie County.

The [East Bayfront Parkway Project](#) was first presented to the public in June 2020, at which time five possible alternatives were presented as possible improvements to the section of roadway.

The selected alternative involves the following safety improvements to the area referenced in the design process as the East Bayfront Parkway:

- Raised medians to promote traffic calming and lower travel speeds.
- Pedestrian improvements, including crosswalks through the median islands, countdown pedestrian signals, and pedestrian-only phases at some locations.
- Traffic lane widths will be reduced by a foot each direction from 12 feet to 11 feet, and a micro-surface will be applied to the pavement.
- Five intersections will be updated with advance radar detection, LED signal heads, and phasing will be retimed and coordinated, including East Bay Street, Sixth Street, Eighth Street, 10th Street, and 12th Street.

*Green areas denote raised medians EXCEPT between the blue dots below (800 feet north of Sixth St. to Port Access Road) where updated pavement markings will be installed.

ALTERNATIVE 1 - REDUCED LANE WIDTHS WITH PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLANDS CONCEPTUAL

SR 4034 BAYFRONT PARKWAY IMPROVEMENTS

A larger (PDF) version of the rendering is among the items available on the [East Bayfront Parkway Project](#) webpage.

Work is expected to start in the spring and run through the 2024 construction season.

It is anticipated that work will start at the 12th Street intersection and work toward Port Access Road.

No detours are expected for motorized traffic. There will be lane restrictions and drivers may encounter traffic controlled by flaggers.

Some work will require short pedestrian detours with no more than one crosswalk closed at any intersection at a time. Detours will be ADA-compliant and will be in place at

no more than two intersections simultaneously.

The contractor cost is \$4,453,413.21, which is to be paid with federal funding. The contractor is Joseph McCormick Construction Company, Inc. of Erie.

The information on the [project](#), including roadway and traffic control plans, the handout from the 2020 plans display, a rendering of the location of the raised medians, and an online comment form, can be accessed by visiting the PennDOT website, www.penndot.pa.gov/District1 under the [Design and Construction Projects](#) link.

The Purpose of the project is to improve the pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and passenger vehicle connection of the Erie Central Business District and adjacent neighborhoods to the waterfront property north of the Bayfront Parkway, reduce crashes as much as practical on the Bayfront Parkway, improve future congestion to an acceptable level of service or delay, and improve traffic operations and efficiency.

Traffic Pattern Shift in Place at Sassafras Street Ext. for Roundabout Construction

Ped, Bike Detours Remain for Work throughout the Corridor

A change to the westbound lanes of the Bayfront Parkway near the Sassafras Street Extension intersection went into effect starting April 10, 2024.

Westbound traffic continues to be a single lane but has shifted south into the unused lane. As part of the shift, a temporary traffic signal was put into place at the intersection. There are also signs to direct bicycle and pedestrian traffic between Sassafras Street Extension and State Street to the designated path separated from the work area by barriers.

The restrictions are expected to be in place through the fall in connection with Stages 1 and 2 of the [Bayfront Parkway Central Corridor Improvement Project](#).

Stage 1 includes working on retaining walls adjacent to Front Street and roundabout construction on the waterfront side of the Sassafras Street Extension intersection. There will also be some preliminary utility work and sidewalk construction. Work on this stage started in fall 2023 and will be completed this spring.

Stage 2 will include the completion of the hybrid roundabout at Sassafras Street Extension, as well as new curb ramps, sidewalks improvements, pavement markings and sign upgrades near the intersection. Additional traffic restrictions will be announced when needed. Stage 2 is expected to be completed in 2024.

The \$111.7 million Bayfront Parkway Central Corridor Improvement Project includes the intersections with Sassafras Street Extension, State Street, and Holland Street.



Work will include the following:

- Multi-use trail connecting the existing trail network, downtown, and the waterfront.
- Overhead pedestrian bridge at Holland Street.
- Sidewalk, crosswalk, and lighting upgrades throughout the length of the project.
- Hybrid roundabouts at the intersections with Sassafras Street Extension and Holland Street.
- Grade separated intersection at State Street, including a traditional signalized at-grade intersection and a path for through traffic on the Bayfront to travel below the intersection.
- Drainage updates throughout the corridor.

Construction will be done in stages over several years, starting at the Sassafras Street Extension intersection and working east toward

Holland Street over time.

Traffic and construction updates will be posted at penndot.pa.gov/BayfrontParkwayProject and on the project [Facebook group](#).

The contract cost is \$111,687,766, which will be paid for through a combination of state and federal funds, including nearly \$28 million from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) over the course of the project.

Construction is being done through joint venture of Brayman Construction of Pittsburgh and Trumbull Corporation of Pittsburgh.

Work at the **Cranberry Street Intersection**, including the installation of a new traffic light and pedestrian signal, is expected to start later this construction season.



Subscribe to project updates by sending an email to BayfrontProject@pa.gov. Follow project news by joining the [Bayfront Parkway Project Facebook](#) group or following [511PAerie](#) on X (formerly known as Twitter).