WYSOX INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ROUTES 6 AND 187 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Project Schedule**

1. Is the design complete? What are the next steps?

No, design is not complete. PennDOT will continue preliminary engineering and environmental studies and prepare the documentation required to obtain environmental clearance. After environmental clearance has been obtained, final design, right-of-way acquisitions, utility relocations, and permitting must be completed prior to the start of construction.

2. When will construction of the intersection start? When will it be completed?

Based on the time required to complete environmental studies, engineering design, right-of-way acquisitions, utility relocations, and permitting, and pending the availability of funding, construction is currently anticipated to begin in Spring 2025 and be completed by the end of 2026.

**Project Background / Alternatives Analysis**

1. Why is this intersection being studied / improved?

This intersection was analyzed as part of the Towanda-Wysox Congestion Study performed in 2012 and the Wysox Intersection Improvement Study in 2018. The studies found that improvements to the intersection could enhance safety, increase maneuverability for large trucks, and reduce congestion at the intersection.

2. Why was the roundabout alternative preferred?

The roundabout was preferred based on numerous factors, such as public input, environmental and historic resource impacts, implementation cost, safety and operational enhancements, and future maintenance requirements.

3. Why not just replace the traffic signal and update the intersection? It has operated this way for years without any major problems.

Along with other deficiencies, the existing intersection is problematic for truck movements. PennDOT investigated alternatives to provide an intersection that will function at a high level, enhance safety, reduce ongoing maintenance needs, and best serve the Wysox community for decades into the future.

4. How can I submit my comments? Will I get another chance to provide comments? Will PennDOT be having any additional public meetings?

Future updates on the project will be posted on the project website, and additional feedback can be submitted through the contacts provided there. No additional public meetings are scheduled, but PennDOT will consider the need for future meetings as the project continues to develop.

5. How much will this project cost?

The estimated construction cost is approximately $3 million. This estimate will be further refined as the design progresses.

**Roundabouts**

1. How would large trucks maneuver through a roundabout? What about fire apparatus and ambulance?

The design team will design the roundabout to allow large trucks and other vehicles to maneuver safely. The raised strip around the center of the roundabout is called a truck apron, and large trucks are expected to have their trailer wheels ride over it. See this video for an example: <https://youtu.be/sH3cVcU3Gy4>

2. What are the benefits of roundabouts?

There are many benefits of roundabouts, most notably safety and operational enhancements. Roundabouts have been proven to be safer than traditional stop-sign or signal-controlled intersections. National studies show that modern roundabouts reduce fatal crashes by up to 90 percent. Modern roundabouts also improve pedestrian safety by allowing people to cross shorter distances of slower-moving one-way traffic due to refuge areas provided between opposing traffic flows. The two fatalities at the project intersection over the previous 10-year period were both pedestrians. Roundabouts typically carry about 30 percent more vehicles than similarly sized signalized intersections during peak flow conditions. During off-peak conditions, roundabouts cause almost no delay, while traffic signals can cause delay to side streets and traffic turning left from the major street. More information can be found via the following link: <https://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/RoadDesignEnvironment/RoadDesign/Pages/Roundabouts.aspx>

3. How many roundabouts are in Pennsylvania?

There are currently 80 roundabouts open to traffic across Pennsylvania as of December 2021. Nineteen (19) are under construction and over 35 are currently under design.

4. Isn’t New Jersey removing their roundabouts?

Modern roundabouts are NOT the same as the old-style New Jersey traffic circles, which operate on a different set of principles. For instance, motorists entering New Jersey traffic circles tend to have the right of way (not as safe nor efficient), whereas traffic entering a modern roundabout must yield to motorists already in the circle (much safer and more efficient). New Jersey traffic circles also tend to be much larger.

**Property and Construction Impacts**

 1. Has the right-of-way acquisition already been decided? How will I know if PennDOT is going take property from me?

Right-of-way impacts have not been determined, and acquisitions will not begin until environmental clearance has been obtained for the project. If PennDOT needs to purchase property from you, someone with PennDOT will contact you.

2. Will any businesses be displaced?

This has not been determined or finalized at this point.

3. Will the intersection remain open to traffic during construction?

Yes, the intersection is planned to remain open during construction. No long-term detours are anticipated as part of the project. Intermittent off-peak closures may be needed for key construction activities.