

1. *How are the BOC and Township Manager representing our ongoing concerns?
The Department and Township Staff have been in regular communication and will continue to coordinate as the project is advanced.
2. *Has there been an assessment of risk/benefit for residents in the immediate area: loss of property value, quality of environment, increase in traffic emissions, noise, and light pollution?
We are not sure how "immediate area" may be defined as asked. Nevertheless, as part of the project development process, we have considered the effects that the project will have on the community and environment (see <https://www.dotdom2.state.pa.us/ceeg/ceeeamain03.nsf?Open&UrlPackagelD=34943>). Regarding loss of property value, we have compensated (or are in the process of compensating) property owners based upon appraisals and negotiations with property owners.
3. *Are any of PADOT's design elements being reconsidered or eliminated?
Many of the design elements of the project have been reconsidered and/or revised over the course of the past several years as a result of stakeholder and public coordination. Some of the items include, sidewalk locations, length of stone wall, limits of roadway widening and elimination of the eastbound taper lane along Church, as well as property frontage and landscaping improvements.
4. *Will PADOT present a revised, updated, more realistic imaging of what the intersection will look like along Church and Greenwood from Rices Mill to the Arboretum entrance?
*Realistic renderings along with project plans have been shared with the public and can be seen on the project website here:
[Route 73 \(Church Road\) Intersections' Improvements \(pa.gov\)](#)*
5. *Will PADOT make available a diagram to show which trees will be removed and where the replacement trees will be planted?
*The landscaping plan has been developed in coordination with the Township and impacted property owners. The landscaping plan for the Arboretum has been shared with the public and the Township and is located on sheet 6 of 7 in the Determination of Effects Finding which is posted here::
<https://path.penndot.gov/Documents/38344.pdf>*
6. *Will there be equal replacement a caliper measurement for the 180 trees, including the initial 20 Arboretum trees designated for removal?
A caliper measurement replacement equivalency is not proposed as part of the project. However, trees will be planted as part of the project to provide landscape screening based on coordination with impacted property owners, including the Arboretum.
7. Will PADOT's Arboretum Intersection expansion double the size of blacktop and impervious surface?

The impervious surface within the project footprint will not be doubled. The stormwater detention basin will manage runoff and mitigate the additional impervious area added as a result of the project.

8. How many trees, dead or alive, have been removed, or will be removed, from the Arboretum over the past 5 years since this proposed project began?

This question can best be answered by Cheltenham Township as PennDOT does not have information related to activities that occur in the Arboretum.

9. Was 20 the initial tree-count for removal in the Arboretum?

Approximately 21 trees are proposed to be removed from Curtis Arboretum. Please refer to sheet 6 of 7 in the Determination of Effects Finding which is posted here: <https://path.penndot.gov/Documents/38344.pdf>

10. How many trees and what size will be replanted in the Arboretum?

22 new trees will be planted. Please refer to the document link in the previous response. The Arboretum plantings were coordinated with the Township and the above linked document reflects the Township's final planting requests based on Friends of the Curtis Arboretum (FOCA) coordination and landscape architect / engineer review.

11. What is the caliper measurement of 180 trees total?

Each tree diameter varies, and the exact measurement of each tree was not determined.

12. Are 65 replacement trees sufficient for the removal of 180 trees?

Please note that the replacement trees are in addition to the just financial compensation provided to each property owner. The plantings proposed as part of this project are being completed after extensive coordination with property owners in order to maintain landscaping adjacent to the roadway as much as possible.

13. Is the 180 tree-count for removal being reconsidered by the Township or PADOT?

PennDOT has extensively coordinated with the Township regarding the tree removal. No further consideration is proposed.

14. When will tree removal begin?

Tree removal will begin when the project starts in Spring 2024.

15. Will the Shade Tree Committee and FOCA be advised or decide on the proper placement of the trees?

The Township and FOCA have already been engaged and have determined where the proposed trees within Curtis Arboretum will be planted. Please refer to the Tree Planting Plan linked in the response to #9.

16. Has a certified Arborist been consulted on the removal of 180 trees and what might be an equivalent replacement number?

The project designer's professional landscape architect has reviewed the impacted trees and recommended appropriate replacements.

17. Has there been an adequate green buffer replacement for ALL the neighbors who are adjacent to PADOT's ROW, not just residential properties that have been purchased for the intersection expansion, ie: 1309 Spruce Lane for the loss of privacy and increase of weather exposure, noise, light and emission pollution?

Buffers are proposed based on coordination with impacted property owners.

18. How many trees will be taken down at the detention basin site including the access road and security fence?

Approximately 19 trees will be removed from the proposed detention basin area.

19. *What are the exact dimensions and volume capacity of the detention basin?

Please refer to the project stormwater management report which was provided to the Township for the volume and sizing of the detention basin.

20. *Are the downhill open streams immediately below the project purview properly prepared to receive the excess of water release in the event of heavy rainfall... as well, downhill through the historic district, into the Glenside-Greenwood Ave. tributary, and continuing onto the Elkins Park-Tookany Creek area?

The project will result in an overall decrease in stormwater flow rate and volume from the project area. The Department is also providing additional volume capacity within the proposed detention basin to further mitigate stormwater. Please refer to previous email correspondence related to this topic.

21. Has the extensive, repeated damage at All Hallows Church in the historic district of Wyncote, and the recent flooding in the Elkins Park High School Park-Mill Creek been considered? The latest weather forecasting data indicates a 70% increase in rainfall in NE, as has been clearly noted just this past week.

A watershed study as well as mitigation of streams within Cheltenham Township is not included in the scope of the PennDOT project. As noted above, the project will result in an overall decrease in stormwater flow rate and volume from the project area.

22. *How well is the Township preparing to mitigate stormwater release through these flood prone areas upon the completion of PADOT's intersection expansion?

Please see the response to question #20. An improvement in overall flooding conditions is anticipated within the project area. There are currently no stormwater controls within the project limits, and limited storm drainage conveyance pipes. The proposed curbing and gutter along with new inlets and pipes are designed to eliminate roadway runoff from entering neighboring properties.

23. Will PADOT reconsider their storm water management plan for our neighborhood and recalculate rainfall data since the recent intense flooding events throughout the NE and Mid-Atlantic states?

The stormwater detention basin is conservatively designed and can handle rainfall events upwards of the 200 year storm.

24. What are PADOT's responsibilities or liability in the event of flooding in Wyncote, Glenside, and Elkins Park?

The project will not increase the risk of downstream flooding and the Department is not responsible for private property or areas outside of the public right-of-way.

25. Is there a PADOT EIS, Environmental Impact Statement, for the proposed Arboretum Intersection expansion available for Township or neighbors directly impacted by this expansion?

Please refer to the project environmental documentation available on the CEES at <https://www.dotdom2.state.pa.us/ceea/ceemain03.nsf?Open&UrlPackageId=34943> and on Project Path: <https://path.penndot.gov/ProjectDetails.aspx?ProjectID=1&txtMPMS=16334>

26. *Can there be an independent, credentialed Environmental Impact Statement using the most current weather data completed by the Township?

An EIS is not required for the intersection project. Please refer to the links above for environmental documentation.

27. Will there be a reassessment of traffic flow after completion of the expansion?

While there is no formalized reassessment scheduled, PennDOT's Traffic Unit continually assesses traffic data, accident history, and safety issues throughout District 6-0.

28. Are our citizens' rights according to our Home Rule Charter and Sustainability Plan being considered, as in the recent Constitutional challenge in Montana..."a healthy life and the pursuit of happiness"?

The Department is a state agency and follows all state and federal rules and regulations. The purpose of this project is to reduce congestion and improve the safety of the Church Road and Greenwood Avenue intersection and Church Road and Rices Mill Road intersection.