

## Frequently Asked Questions - Route 73 (Church Road) Intersection Improvement Project

### Q: What is the Church Road (Greenwood Ave to Rices Mill Rd) Improvement Project limits?

- Along Route 73 (Church Road) the approximate project limits extend from the intersection with Rices Mill Road to approximately the arboretum/Hillcrest Center. Along Greenwood Avenue, the approximate project limits extend from 500 feet south of the intersection with Route 73 (Church Road) to approximately 700 feet north of the intersection.

### Q: Why is PennDOT improving Church Road (Greenwood Ave to Rices Mill Rd)?

- **Purpose:** To reduce congestion and improve the safety of the Route 73 (Church Road) intersection at Greenwood Avenue and at Rices Mill Road.
- **Traffic Congestion:** Peak period traffic volumes on Route 73 (Church Road) are relatively high. During peak periods intersection there is significant delay at the intersection of Church Road and Greenwood Avenue.
- **Vehicular Crashes:** Crash records show a pattern of collisions resulting from improper turning movements, indicating a need for intersection geometric improvements, capacity enhancement, and signal timing improvements. Between 2013 and 2015, three crashes occurred at the intersection of Route 73 (Church Road) and Rices Mill Road and 12 crashes occurred at the intersection of Route 73 (Church Road) and Greenwood Avenue. The main causes for the crashes were found to be drivers running red lights and making improper and careless turns. The majority of these incidents involved left turns. Additionally, the existing geometry and sight distance do not meet current design standards, and drainage issues have been observed at the Route 73 (Church Road) and Greenwood Avenue Intersection. According to recent (last 3 years) crash history, multiple crashes have occurred during wet or icy pavement conditions.
- **Pedestrian Accommodations:** Neither sidewalks or shoulders are present along Church Road and pedestrians are forced to walk in the travel lanes with vehicular traffic.

### Q: What improvements will be included in the Church Road Intersection Project?

- This project will add turn lanes and traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Church Road and Greenwood Avenue and at the intersection of Route 73 (Church Road) and Rices Mill Road. Route 73 (Church Road) will be realigned slightly to improve the geometry and accommodate the widening.
- Asphalt pavement will be reconstructed on Route 73 (Church Road) and Greenwood Avenue.
- Concrete curb will be constructed along Route 73 (Church Road) and Greenwood Avenue within the project limits to direct runoff to a storm drainage system and a storm water management basin located along Greenwood Avenue.
- Sidewalk along north side of Route 73 (Church Road) will be constructed between Rices Mill Road and Greenwood Avenue. Sidewalk will also be constructed along the east side of Greenwood Avenue north of the intersection of Route 73 (Church Road) and will tie into the existing sidewalk at the northern limit of the project.
- Turn lanes on Route 73 (Church Road) and Greenwood Avenue will be constructed and traffic signal upgrades will be installed at both intersections to enhance mobility and reduce delays. An existing curve on Church Road will also be realigned to increase motorist safety.

- Sidewalks and pedestrian crossings will be built along Route 73 (Church Road) and at the Route 73 (Church Road) and Greenwood Avenue Intersection.

**Q: What is the anticipated construction schedule? How will construction impact residents and commuters?**

- Two-year construction schedule anticipated to start: **Fall 2023**
- Traffic impacts are necessary due to the width of the roadway and to expedite the work.
- Utility companies will perform advance relocations in **May 2023** that will require a full detour on Church Road. This will be off-peak work weekdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- Following the utility work, road construction requires one-way detours on Route 73 (Church Road) and Greenwood Avenue.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> closure = west Church and south Greenwood
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> closure = east Church and north Greenwood
- Access will be maintained to all driveways and businesses.

**Q: How will the project affect Curtis Arboretum? Will the trees at the intersection be impacted by construction?**

- 17 trees along Greenwood Avenue and Route 73 (Church Road) will be removed for construction. Replacement trees will be planted and have been coordinated with Cheltenham Township and the Arboretum's master plan.

**Q: How will the project address pedestrian safety?**

- Safety is a primary goal of these improvements. New sidewalks will be constructed at the following locations:
  - Along the northside of Route 73 (Church Road) from Greenwood Avenue to Rices Mill Road
  - Along the southside of Route 73 (Church Road) from Greenwood Avenue to Randall Road
  - Along Greenwood Avenue
- High visibility cross walks, ADA curb ramps, and pedestrian signals will be installed at both intersections.

**Q: How will the project address flooding?**

- A new roadway drainage system will collect roadway runoff and direct it to a dry stormwater detention basin. This basin will be adjacent to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College along the east side of Greenwood Avenue. It will be designed to drain within 72 hours and not have standing water. The basin will treat and slowly discharge water to the stream at the low point of Greenwood Avenue.

**Q: Will there be construction or long-term impacts to private property/my property?**

- All impacted property owners have been contacted by the PennDOT Right-of-Way Unit.

**Q: How can I contact the project team with questions and concerns?**

- Please contact PennDOT Project Manager, Curt Venditti, PE, at 610-757-1881 or [c-cvenditt@pa.gov](mailto:c-cvenditt@pa.gov).