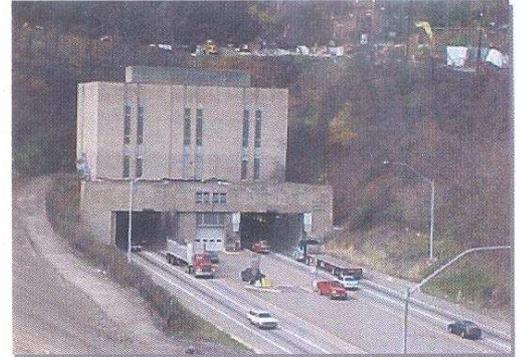




## Squirrel Hill Tunnel Rehabilitation Project Overview and Preliminary Schedule Feb. 23, 2012



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- Media Inquiries: Jim Struzzi; [jstruzzi@pa.gov](mailto:jstruzzi@pa.gov), 412-249-5010
- Get construction updates and traffic advisories from PennDOT by sending email addresses to [jstruzzi@pa.gov](mailto:jstruzzi@pa.gov). Please type "Subscribe-Parkway East" in the subject line.
- PennDOT District 11 has also created webpage for the project at [www.dot.state.pa.us/District11](http://www.dot.state.pa.us/District11)

### General Tunnel Data:

- Length: 4,225 feet
- Roadway: 2-12'-0" wide lanes each direction
- Barrier width: 3'-9" left side, 1'-7" right side
- Existing vertical clearance: 13'-6"
- Date tunnel open to traffic: June 5, 1953
- Last rehabilitation: 1983

**Project Cost:** \$49,495,000

**Prime Contractor:** Walsh Construction Company of Canonsburg

**Overview:** Construction is expected to begin early March 2012. The project includes update electrical systems, lighting system, control system, ventilation system, structural repairs to the walls and arched ceiling, installation of a water line and other improvements (see below for more detail). To minimize impacts on the traveling public, rehabilitation work on the bridge that carries the Parkway East over Commercial Street will be performed as part of the tunnel project. Expansion dam on ramps at the Edgewood Swissvale interchange (Exit 77) will also be replaced. Overall work will conclude in summer 2014.

### Rehabilitation Work Scheduled for 2012-2014:

- Repair concrete spalls
- Remove the existing tunnel ceiling to improve vertical clearance (new clearance height for westbound tunnel will be posted at 15'-6"; eastbound tunnel will be posted at 14'-9")
- Construct new drainage around portal buildings
- Remove and replace de-bonded tunnel wall tiles

- Repair cracks in concrete surfaces
- Re-line the existing water line and provide new equipment for the existing tunnel fire hydrant system
- Repair leaking expansion joints in tunnel
- Upgrade tunnel life safety systems
- Refurbish existing Tunnel Ventilation
- Provide New Tunnel Lighting System
- Upgrade existing west-bound tunnel over-height truck detection system
- Provide oil/ water separator and hazardous spill containment tank
- Mill and resurface tunnel roadway

**Traffic restrictions:** The work will require overnight and weekend single lane traffic in the tunnel. In addition, 16 weekend closures (8 westbound in 2012, 8 eastbound in 2013) will occur as part of the project. No full closures will occur on weeknights. Only one direction will be restricted at a time. Westbound (inbound) work is expected to occur in 2012 followed by eastbound (outbound) work in 2013. Restrictions will occur according to the following timeframes:

#### Monday-Thursdays

- Eastbound (outbound): 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Westbound (inbound): 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

#### Weekends

- Eastbound: 11 p.m. on Fridays to 6 a.m. on Mondays
- Westbound: 10 p.m. on Fridays to 5 a.m. on Mondays

#### **Preliminary Schedule (Tentative and Subject to Change):**

- All work westbound in 2012
- No traffic restrictions expected until March; first westbound weekend closure and detour expected in late July (July 27-29)

#### February-May 2012

- Work within ceiling: Conduit installation, concrete spall and crack repairs
- Rehabilitation of existing ventilation system

#### March-April

- Detour route pavement improvements (Penn Avenue, Forbes Avenue, Beechwood Boulevard, South Braddock Avenue)

#### April-May

- West portal building/roadway slab repair

#### March-October

- Tunnel barrier spall repairs

#### May-September

- Commercial Street Bridge rehabilitation

#### July-November

- Weekend closures begin
- Westbound tunnel ceiling removal
- Braddock interchange bridge expansion joint replacements