



PRESS RELEASE

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Recovery-Funded Old Lancaster Pike Project Groundbreaking

First ARRA streetscape project in Delaware

Hockessin – Hockessin is set to receive new sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting, paid for by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Old Lancaster Pike Streetscape Improvements project will create and-or retain up to 60 jobs for Delaware construction workers.

Governor Jack Markell, Lt. Governor Matt Denn, U.S. Senator Tom Carper, Transportation Secretary Carolann Wicks, and a host of other dignitaries participated in a Department of Transportation (DelDOT) groundbreaking for the first Recovery-funded streetscape project in Delaware.

“My administration is working hard every day to create jobs and get our economy moving,” Gov. Markell said. “The Old Lancaster Pike is a great example of how Recovery Act funds can be spent because it will get Delawareans back to work and improve our infrastructure.”

“Many Delawareans know this stretch of road as the site of Hockessin's famous July 4th parade. This is a great project that will put people to work and make needed, practical improvements to a heavily used roadway,” Lt. Gov. Denn said.

“Our goal is to improve the safety of residents who want to walk to downtown businesses. This project will connect sidewalks that were not connected and widen the portions that were too narrow,” Transportation Secretary Carolann Wicks said. “It will improve the signing and striping of crosswalks so people can cross the street more safely. Additional lighting will accommodate pedestrians later in the day, if perhaps, they’re leaving a soccer game at Swift Memorial Park. Larger pipes will be put in so that water won’t pool in the streets and freeze in the winter.”

John DiEleuterio, State Director for Senator Ted Kaufman; Jeff Dayton, State Director for Congressman Mike Castle; State Senator Patricia M. Blevins; State Senator Liane M. Sorenson; State Representative Deborah D. Hudson; State Representative Nick Manolakos; Ken Murphy, President of the Hockessin Planning Partnership; New Castle County Executive Chris Coons; and New Castle County President Paul G. Clark also attended.

Mumford & Miller Concrete, Inc. of Middletown, will complete the project for \$1,710,270.75, and construction will last up to 10 months. Streetscape improvements along Old Lancaster Pike from Valley Road to Erickson Avenue will include new sidewalks, upgrades to curb ramps, drainage modifications, crosswalks, landscaping and lighting. The project was approved as an ARRA project for the 120-day obligation plan.

Delaware's U.S. Senators Carper and Kaufman said the state is to be commended for making good on the promise of delivering jobs and needed transportation improvements. "This is the good news we hoped for when we voted for the Recovery Act. Millions of dollars in local projects, quickly underway, and – most importantly – people back to work. We applaud Gov. Markell and Secretary Wicks for taking fast advantage of the funding we were proud to help provide. This is the cooperation our state and nation need to get back on track."

DelDOT's \$140.9 million ARRA projects range from big-ticket items, such as the additional highway-speed E-ZPass lanes at the I-95 Toll Plaza and more than \$25 million worth of paving and rehabilitation work statewide, to safety projects such as traffic signal projects, guardrail replacement and bridge maintenance. Funding is being targeted not just for traditional road projects, but also for transit projects such as the first phase of a new Dover Transit Center, upgraded park-and-ride facilities and new rail cars and buses. The project list also includes money for raising South Market Street in Wilmington out of the flood plain and funding to refurbish the Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk, both designed to enhance economic opportunities in those areas.

Details on all the proposed projects can be found on DelDOT's Web site at www.deldot.gov, under the "Recovery Projects" tab. Gov. Markell is committed to keeping the public as up to date as possible regarding project progress, how funding is being spent, the number of jobs generated and the contractors who win the bids. The DelDOT Web site, www.deldot.gov, and the state Web site, www.recovery.delaware.gov will continue to be the focal point for this and more information.

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