

**STATE ROUTE 1024 SECTION 88H
RIDGE ROAD RESTORATION PROJECT
FREQUENT COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

The following are comments that were frequently made and questions that were frequently asked by individuals who attended the open house public meeting on June 30, 2026, and/or submitted a comment form by July 15, 2026. (Approximately 115 people attended the public meeting, and 46 comment forms were submitted to PennDOT.) Corresponding responses and answers from the project design team are also provided below.

Frequent Comment / Question	Response / Answer
The display boards do not show details of the anticipated impacts.	With the project being in the preliminary design phase, it is too early to have many details that are of interest to individual property owners, such as exact areas of required right-of-way acquisition. Details will become available as the design progresses. In particular, the right-of-way acquisition plan is anticipated to be finalized in late 2026.
There is concern that the project will impact trees and other features that are close to the road.	Although the proposed shoulder widening is only 1 to 3 feet in most places along the roadway, there are many trees and other features that are close to the road and will potentially be impacted by the project. Through survey and mapping, the design team is aware of these features. Some impacts are unavoidable, with the item either being within the area of proposed widening or being close enough to the roadway that it is a safety concern. Other impacts may be avoidable by making small changes to the design. During final design, the design team will work to minimize impacts to trees and other features where practical.
The public meeting should have included a presentation and question-and-answer session.	With the project in the preliminary design phase and the project affecting residents in different ways, PennDOT felt that an open house was an effective way for the public to learn about the project and for the design team to learn about issues important to residents. PennDOT staffed the meeting with about 20 professionals across all project discipline areas so that attendees would be able to speak directly with team members without a long waiting time. Additionally, the open house format allowed attendees to arrive at their convenience and stay for as short or long of a timeframe as desired.
There is concern that the project will cause more speeding.	The project will not widen the travel lanes or make large changes to the roadway alignment. The existing speed limits will not be increased. PennDOT does not anticipate speeds increasing as a result of the project.
There is concern that the project will cause more traffic to use Ridge Road.	Outside of removing a 3-month (February, March, and April) weight restriction, the project itself is not anticipated to cause an increase in traffic volumes. The removal of the weight restriction will allow heavy vehicles to use the road year-round, potentially increasing volumes slightly during the months that are currently weight-restricted. However, the project will not add additional lanes, will not make large changes to the alignment, and will not raise the speed limit. This means that the character and capacity of the roadway and the overall travel time will be unchanged, and the project is therefore not anticipated to attract additional traffic to Ridge Road. The Ridge Road Restoration Project will update the roadway to handle the additional traffic that is anticipated to use Ridge Road in the future, as new travel patterns develop upon the opening of the CSVT Southern Section and as local growth and development occur.
When will construction of the project begin? When will it be completed?	Construction is anticipated to start in 2028 and be completed in 2030.

Frequent Comment / Question	Response / Answer
Will additional public meetings be held and, if so, how will I know about them?	Tentatively, the next meeting is anticipated to be held midway through final design, when the design and impacts are better defined. The next meeting may be specifically intended for property owners from whom right-of-way must be acquired, and meeting notices would be mailed directly to those individuals. Advertising for any additional general public meetings would be similar to the June 30, 2026, meeting. PennDOT would issue a press release to local newspapers and radio stations. Notices would be mailed to residents within the project area and posted on the project website. A flyer would be provided to the Township to post on their website and/or social media.
When will the CSVT Southern Section be opened and how much additional traffic will start using Ridge Road at that time?	The CSVT Southern Section mainline highway is anticipated to be opened in Fall 2027, and the PA 61 Connector is anticipated to be opened in Fall 2028. It is difficult to project with certainty, but based on the distances and anticipated travel times along the different travel path options, it is estimated that roughly 3,200 vehicles per day may be diverted from US 11 to Ridge Road and CSVT when the Southern Section opens. Most of the diversion is anticipated to occur during peak traffic times when there is congestion on US 11 in the vicinity of Shamokin Dam.
Why can't all the widening be done to the far side of the roadway, so my property is not impacted?	The widening to provide 4-foot shoulders is proposed all on one side of the roadway where practical, which is limited to mostly between Cannery Road and Stone School Road. Widening all on one side must be performed over a long stretch of roadway to maintain a smooth alignment that meets engineering design guidelines. Most of Ridge Road has residences, side roads, and/or sensitive environmental features on both sides of the roadway that make it impractical to widen all on one side. In response to feedback collected through the June 30, 2026, public meeting, the design team is studying the feasibility of widening all on one side in additional select areas.
Will any roads be closed during construction?	Yes. In general, traffic will be maintained in one direction on Ridge Road during construction, while traffic in the other direction is detoured. There will be full closures in three locations due to the alignment and intersection improvements. These areas are near Strawbridge Road, at Spruce Hollow Road, and near US 11. These complete closures will not occur simultaneously, and their durations will be minimized. Similarly, there will also be closures of Bulk Plant Road and Spruce Hollow Road where these roadways intersect with Ridge Road, but the closures will be minimized and will not be simultaneous. More details on the anticipated duration of these closures will be available in final design.
How will access to driveways (residential or commercial) be maintained during construction?	PennDOT and the contractor will work with property owners during construction to ensure they can enter and exit their properties when needed. Access points may need to be temporarily shifted to accommodate construction operations.
If a portion of my property is needed, when will PennDOT approach me about acquiring the land?	PennDOT anticipates starting to reach out to affected property owners in late 2026 or early 2027.
Since I don't know for sure the impacts to my property, should I proceed with making improvements that I have been planning?	Yes, you are encouraged to proceed with improvements as if the project will not impact your property. Any improvements that end up being impacted by the project will be considered when PennDOT appraises the fair market value of the land needed.