

Bayfront Parkway Central Corridor Improvement Project Newsletter

Creating a Stronger Connection between Downtown Erie and the Waterfront



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Working through Erie County's Winter Weather Season

Winters in the northwest region can be harsh.

Therefore, it is common for multi-year construction projects to have what PennDOT internally refers to as a "winter shutdown" — a suspension of work from November or December when the weather gets colder until March or April when the temperature starts to warm.

During those months the winter weather creates harsh conditions that take a large toll on construction work crews (laborers, operators, inspectors), materials (concrete, line paint, backfill), and equipment (trucks, backhoes, excavators). This limits the type of construction that can be done.

In the case of the [Bayfront Parkway Central Corridor Improvement Project](#), some work identified that could be completed during the winter months and it was decided to move ahead with construction as much as weather would permit. Much of the work is in connection with utility relocations happening off and under the roadways.

Unfortunately, after a few years of mild winters, it has been a more typical experience this season. PennDOT construction team members Michelle Fugagli and Doug Fry discussed the winter work during a recent episode of Let's Talk Bayfront.

"Winter is a harsh season for construction operations," Fugagli said. "Winter weather brings frigid temperatures and snow. This will increase what we call 'warm up' time for our crews to help avoid them contracting any cold weather illnesses or injuries. Cold temperatures also increase the warm-up time and efficiency of our diesel equipment. In addition to worker safety and equipment, most of our construction materials have restrictions that they cannot be placed in below 40 degree."

To determine what work can be done and when



PennDOT and our contractors and subcontractors crews regularly monitor the extended forecasts to best prepare for the conditions and schedule operations accordingly, including additional time for warming up equipment and following weather-specific safety protocols such as giving workers needed breaks to avoid any cold weather illnesses or injuries.

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Winter Work Requires Extra Precautions, Time

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Also added to the equation are the drivers and pedestrians traveling through the work area. "We must ensure that are road work areas are kept in fashion to allow snowplows to travel through the site and also keeping safe lane widths for the traveling public," Fugagli said.

It has been a harsh winter in Erie County so far, which has the Bayfront construction team eagerly looking forward to the spring.

"This spring we currently plan to work on completing the remainder of the Sassafra Street roundabout, starting on the structures of the northeast corner of Holland Street, continuing drainage updates throughout the project, as well as miscellaneous painting, planting, and earthwork," Fugagli said.

The team is also looking for a window of warm, dry conditions to repaint the roadway lines throughout as needed throughout the work zone.

"Line painting is something that has be to 50



degrees and, of course it has to be dry," Fry said. "As soon as we have the right conditions, we will get that done."

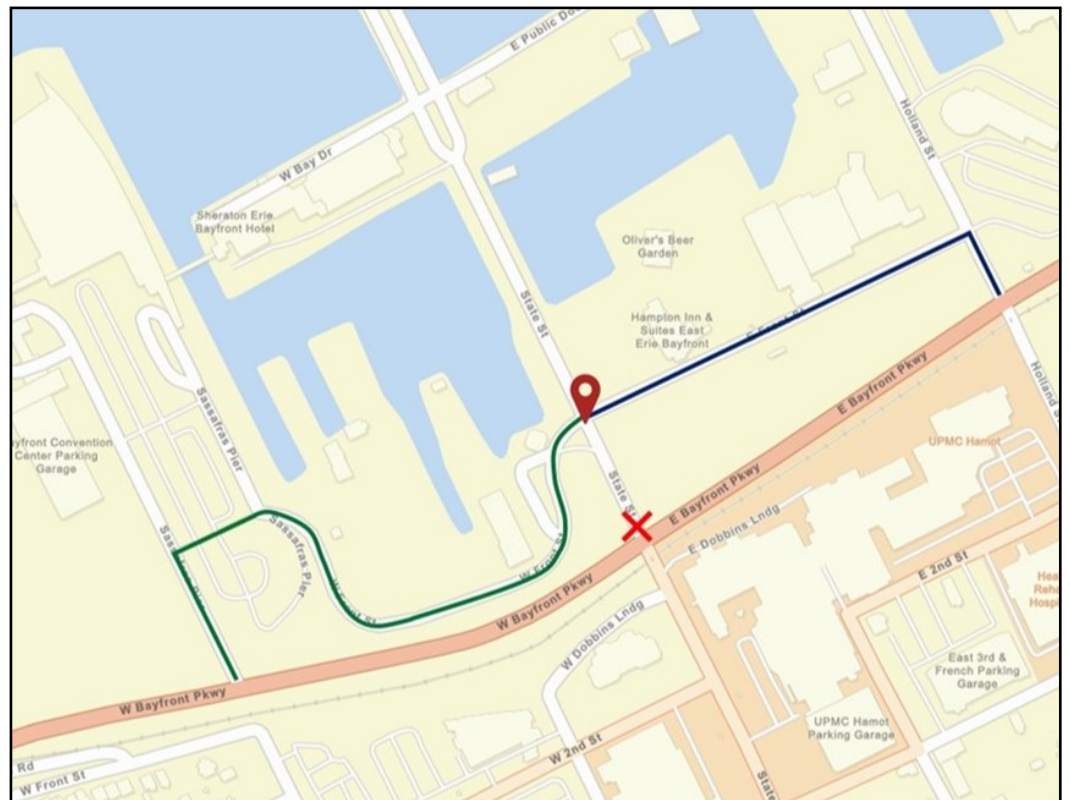
You can listen to the entire Let's Talk Bayfront episode on PennDOT's YouTube channel — www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0VFIGft7to.

Access Waterfront Businesses by Using W. Front Street Ext.

Work to install underground utility conduits under State Street near the Bayfront Parkway is ongoing. For the safety of drivers and workers, State Street will remain closed between the intersection with the Bayfront Parkway and the intersection with West Front Street Extension on the waterfront side.

Drivers can continue to access hotels, restaurants, and other businesses on the waterfront side of State Street by using Sassafra Street Extension or Holland Street and West Front Street Extension.

The utility relocation is a necessary step prior to the reconstruction of State Street as a grade-separated intersection.



The Purpose of the project is to improve the pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and passenger vehicle connection of the Erie Central Business District and adjacent neighborhoods to the waterfront property north of the Bayfront Parkway, reduce crashes as much as practical on the Bayfront Parkway, improve future congestion to an acceptable level of service or delay, and improve traffic operations and efficiency.