

FEASIBILITY STUDY SUMMARY

PURPOSE AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

AUGUST 2016

The project will:

- Improve safety along Route 981 by improving roadway and intersection geometry, providing better access on and off the roadway, and addressing crash-prone areas;
- Provide consistent and reliable access and travel times for businesses and residents traveling to the study area; and,
- Improve connections between established economic assets within the study area.

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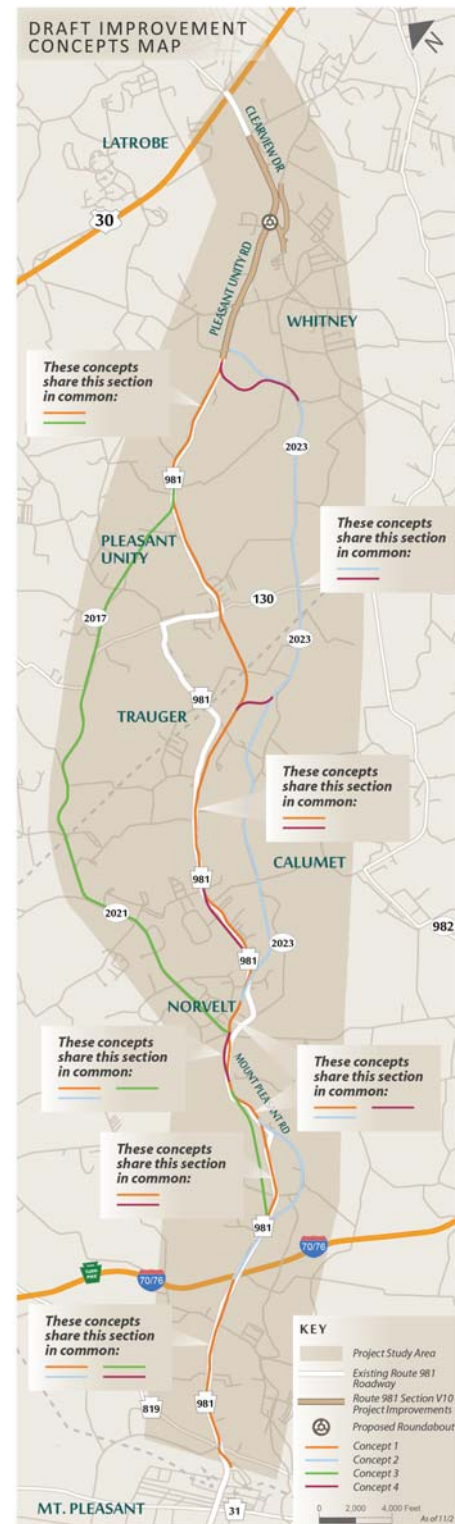
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS ANALYSIS

MID 2015 TO EARLY 2017

The analysis evaluated the 2015 existing condition, 2040 no-build condition and 2040 build condition. The analysis included a potential interchange with the PA Turnpike at Route 981. However, the design and construction of the interchange is not included as part of PennDOT's project.

Results from the traffic analyses predicted that the Draft Preferred Improvement Concept, using a two-lane roadway template and eight foot shoulders, is sufficient to accommodate 2040 Future Build traffic. The wider shoulders, in addition to proposed geometric improvements, will make the proposed corridor conditions more favorable for multimodal use.

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CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

MID 2016 TO EARLY 2017

A No-Build and four Build Concepts were developed. All Build Concepts included a common alignment from the Route 981 intersection with Route 819 to the PA Turnpike.

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ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

LATE 2016 TO NOW

- Analysis of the developed Concepts included: how the Concepts meet the needs, how the Concepts will improve traffic conditions, an evaluation of potential environmental and community impacts, and public input.
- During the Alternatives Analysis, based partly on impacts and public input, the Concepts were combined to develop a final Draft Preferred Improvement Concept.
- The Draft Preferred Improvement Concept is a hybrid of the four developed Concepts.
- A Logical Termini and Independent Utility Evaluation led to the identification of three separate projects within the Draft Preferred Improvement Concept:
 - Section 1:** Route 819 and Route 981 intersection to the Route 981 intersection near Norvelt
 - Section 2:** Route 981 intersection near Norvelt to Route 130 intersection with Route 2023
 - Section 3:** Route 130 intersection with Route 2023 to Route 981 near the Arnold Palmer Airport

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Public Meeting #3 JULY 26, 2017	To introduce the Draft Preferred Improvement Concept to the public, give details about the first section moving into Preliminary Engineering, and receive feedback
KeyS Meeting #4 FEBRUARY 14, 2017	To review feedback received from the KeyS Committee and public, and present the Draft Preferred Improvement Concept and Mini-TIP
Public Meeting #2 NOVEMBER 9, 2016	To introduce the four draft improvement concepts to the general public and receive feedback
KeyS Meeting #3: OCTOBER 14, 2016	To continue the discussion on the four Draft Improvement Concepts
KeyS Meeting #2: OCTOBER 3, 2016	To present the four Draft Improvement Concepts
Economic Exchange Day: APRIL 14, 2016	Educational outreach to Greater Latrobe and Mount Pleasant Area School Districts.
Public Meeting #1: FEBRUARY 25, 2016	To introduce the LVTIP and Feasibility Study to the general public and receive feedback
KeyS Meeting #1: OCTOBER 1, 2015	To kick off the stakeholder outreach portion of the LVTIP feasibility study

