

Executive Summary

State Route 115 Improvement Project Category E

The Pocono Raceway draws huge crowds of motorsports fans, generates millions in tax revenues, and supports close to 3,000 jobs. Nearly 100,000 people flood the surrounding area each year during race weekends, with the vast majority using two-lane State Route (SR) 115 to access the speedway. During these race events, traffic on SR 115 is restricted to one direction, creating challenges for local residents and obstructing emergency vehicles. The unconventional intersection of SR 115 and SR 903 became a high-crash area. The area is environmentally sensitive, with roads winding through high quality wetlands and frequent flooding occurring on SR 115 and SR 4002 from a nearby stream. A state endangered population of more than 800 Blunt Manna Grass was also discovered and unavoidable. RETTEW Associates, Inc. designed a roadway to limit the impacts to both the adjacent properties and the environmentally sensitive areas.

This challenging project required close coordination with multiple county, state, and federal agencies to obtain project clearance for impacts to many sensitive resources. Through coordination with PA DCNR, RETTEW Associates, Inc. developed a Translocation and Monitoring Plan proposing to relocate some of the endangered populations to an area unimpacted by the construction with an existing Blunt Manna Grass population. RETTEW Associates, Inc. also restored and realigned Keiper Run Creek and an unnamed tributary (UNT) by using stream design techniques. An additional section of the UNT was relocated and stabilized because the existing channel was highly eroded and unstable.