

Executive Summary

Lafayette Street Extension Project Section MGN Category H

The Lafayette Street Extension Project Section MGN exemplifies the successful coordination of a multidisciplinary effort to deliver transformative infrastructure improvements in an urban environment. Besides extensive roadway work and safety enhancements, this unique effort also featured culvert replacement, multiuse trail relocation, recreational parkland improvement and landscaping, and stormwater management. It successfully integrated these disparate activities to provide a holistic solution that addressed multiple county needs.

At the core of Section MGN was the full-depth reconstruction and widening of a mile-long portion of Lafayette Street, as well as the addition of 8-foot sidewalks next to the new roadway. The work serves as a model of site-sensitive design, forward-thinking engineering, and construction tightly focused on community needs.

Creating a parklike setting with open space for the trail system alongside Lafayette Street enhances the user experience, public perception, and promotes outdoor activity. The project also delivers significant safety benefits. The reconstruction of a traffic island alongside the Norristown Transportation Center improves access to bus and regional rail service for the more than 2,000 travelers who use the facility each weekday.

The project clears the way for construction of a new interchange with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. A Montgomery County Planning Commission study indicates that an interchange at Lafayette Street (without any additional improvements or zoning changes) would bring an additional 5,900 to 8,000 trips to the turnpike each day, yielding an estimated additional \$66 million to \$90 million in revenue from 2020 to 2040.