

Major 611 DWG Corridor News - Funded: 611 DWG Corridor Study, Rockfall Mitigation, Retaining Wall Rehab/Replacement

By Tara Mezzanotte / Founding Member I-80 Rockfall Fence and Safety Concerns at the Delaware Water Gap Coalition

DELAWARE WATER GAP - Major 611 Short and Long-Term Plans Update

Big news in today's letter from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA-Alliance) to Smithfield Township (added to photos):

611 Phase 1 - PennDOT and NPS have come to an agreement on the rock removal scope.

They are finalizing what is necessary for the Special Use Permit.

NEW FUNDED 611 DWG CORRIDOR STUDY- 2025-2026

NEW FUNDED 611 Phase 2: 2025-2028 PennDOT plans for Slope Stabilization (aka Rockfall Mitigation) has been funded.

NEW FUNDED - 2025-2028 PennDOT is planning to rehab/rebuild the stone retaining wall - this is now funded.

Thank you:

Smithfield Township for passing Resolution No. 533, asking NEPA-Alliance to add a 611 DWG Corridor Study to the 2025-2028 TIP. (Added to photo.)

Area residents and business owners who submitted NEPA-Alliance Long Term Transportation Plan comments in December. (Added to photos with our I80 DWG Coalition Comment and the NEPA-Alliance Response.)

Everyone who made phone calls, sent emails, and worked behind the scenes on this!

UPDATE: 611 Phase 1

PennDOT and NPS have come to an agreement on the rock removal scope. They are finalizing what is necessary for the Special Use Permit.

Construction is anticipated to take 6-8 weeks, with the intention of opening one lane upon completion.

Emergency funding was secured in 2022 for this phase.

NEW FUNDED: 2025-2026 - 611 DWG Corridor Study – LONG TERM SOLUTION!

It is our hope this will include I-80 DWG Bridge to East Stroudsburg and 611 Point of Gap to Stroudsburg I-80.

This was the first necessary step to help secure the I-80 DWG Corridor – Warren County portion and the 611 Portland to Point of Gap – Northampton County portion.

Only if each of the three segments are studied independently can the agencies then collaborate and look to a multi-phased, well-coordinated long-term solution like a DWG tunnel or bypass.

NEW FUNDED: 2025-2028 611 Phase 2

PennDOT plan for Slope Stabilization (aka Rockfall Mitigation) has been funded.

This will likely require a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) and a National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 (Section 106) Review.

These studies ensure minimal adverse impact on people, businesses, environmental/historic/cultural resources, that all alternatives are considered, and require public input.

It will also ensure cumulative impacts for all area projects are taken into consideration, leading to efficient, wise development of long-term solutions, public input consideration, and transparency.

NEW FUNDED: 2025-2028 - PennDOT is planning to rehab/rebuild the stone retaining wall

The condition of the retaining wall is finally being addressed.

This will require the same studies as previously mentioned.

It is hoped, and appears likely, that this and the 611 Rockfall Mitigation project will be studied and developed as a two-phase project.



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