

NEWS



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For immediate release:

State Road Stormwater Relief Sewer Construction Work Gears Up: Expect Traffic Delays on State Road

The Philadelphia Water Department's construction of the State Road Parallel Relief Sewer continues and traffic delays can be expected during the next several weeks.

As part of the construction work, it will be necessary to remove bedrock to allow for the installation of the relief sewer. The Water Department's contractor will use underground blasting operations to break up the rock making room for the trench that will hold the sewer.

The contractor will be conducting an underground test blast on State Road near Ashburner Street on Wednesday, March 24 in the early afternoon. Following the successful completion of the test blast, additional underground blasting will be required during the next several weeks for the relief sewer construction.

During the first phase of the operations, underground blasting will start on State Road near Ashburner Street and move approximately 500 feet northward. It is anticipated that one blast will take place at approximately 2:30 p.m. each day that blasting is scheduled, weather permitting. It is anticipated that the first phase of the underground blasting will take two weeks to complete.

Subsequent underground blasting may be required later in the spring or summer near the intersection of Pennypack Road and State Road following a review of the initial blasting operation.

As part of the relief sewer work, two northbound lanes of State Road between Ashburner and Grant have already been closed to traffic. Traffic on State Road is being rerouted so that there is now one lane northbound and one lane southbound in the normal southbound lanes. Concrete barriers have been erected.

The Philadelphia Police Department will stop traffic on State Road from Ashburner Road to Linden Avenue each day when the underground blasting will take place. Traffic will be stopped approximately five minutes before blasting begins and will remain stopped during and after the blasting, until it is confirmed that the blasting operation is successful.

The Philadelphia Water Department is installing the relief sewer to alleviate sanitary overflow to local waterways, such as the Pennypack and Byberry creeks. The overflow will be diverted to the new relief sewer and will end up at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant where it will be treated and safely returned to the Delaware River.

The new relief sewer will be a 14' x 14" box sewer. At the deepest part of the sewer, it will run 30 feet deep at the bottom and will be approximately 16 feet under from the top. The cost of the project is \$48 million.

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