

# Construction Update

## SR 981, SECTION Q20



### 2022 Construction Activity:

Work will begin on the Route 981/Route 819 roundabout and the new realigned Route 981 between Hecla Road/State Street and the PA Turnpike. Construction crews will also begin excavation for the new Route 981 alignment between Carpentertown Road and Walton's Lane.

Section Q20 is the first of three Laurel Valley Transportation Improvement Projects (LVTIP) to advance to construction. The project will improve 4.5 miles from the Route 981/Route 819 intersection to the Route 981/Route 2023 (Holly Place Road) intersection near Norvelt.

#### Construction will include:

- ✓ Sight distance improvements
- ✓ Improvements to curves and grades
- ✓ Consistent 12-foot travel lanes throughout
- ✓ Eight-foot-wide shoulders to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians

*Project construction began in December 2021, including:*

- ✓ Clearing land for the new alignment and widening areas
- ✓ Placing erosion and sedimentation controls

#### UNIQUE PROJECT FEATURES

- Three Roundabouts
- Partnership with Mt. Pleasant School District for roundabout gateway treatment
- Partnership with Mt. Pleasant Township for drainage and stormwater improvements
- Removal of unused railroad tressle

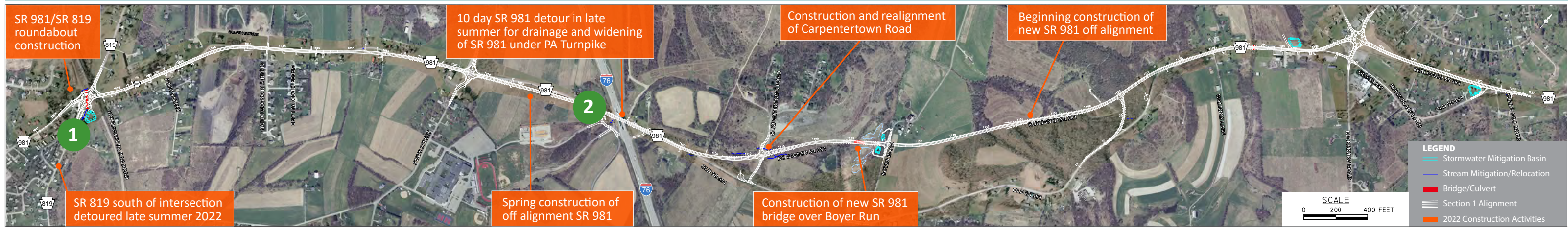
### SR 981, Section Q20 Roundabouts

Roundabouts are becoming more common due to advantages of increased safety and reduced delay. Single-lane roundabouts will be built at three locations:

- Routes 981/819 (shown at right)
- Route 981/State St./Hecla Road
- Norvelt intersection

Roundabouts improve safety with fewer conflict points and encourage lower speeds. They can carry 30% more vehicles than similarly-sized signalized intersections during peak traffic conditions, due to more free flowing traffic, using yields instead of stop signs.



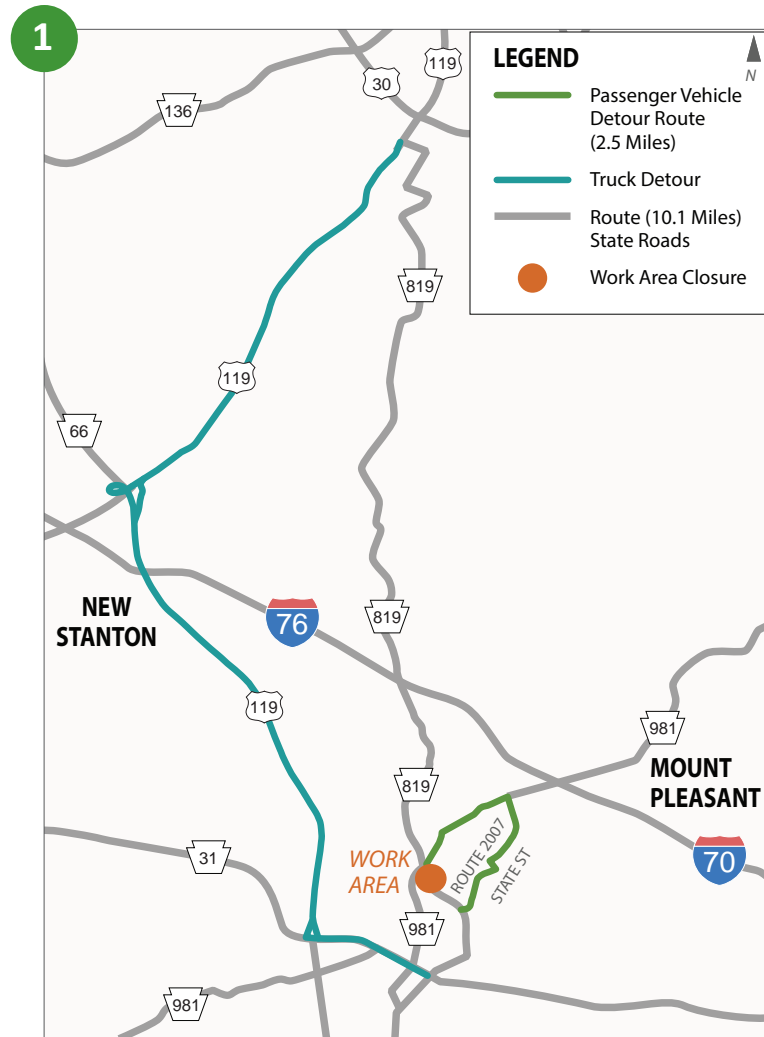


# 2022 CONSTRUCTION & DETOURS

Two detours are anticipated during the 2022 construction season. Additional short-term, periodic detours may occur as needed. Check the project website and sign up for email updates for the most current construction updates.

## IMPROVEMENTS SR 981, Section Q20 Corridor

Additional work, highlighted in orange in the map above, will be underway throughout the year with limited traffic impacts. Excavation work will begin for the 1.75-mile new alignment north of the PA Turnpike and will include relocation of Carpentertown Road and the construction of a new Route 981/Boyer Road intersection. A new bridge will be constructed over Boyer Run.



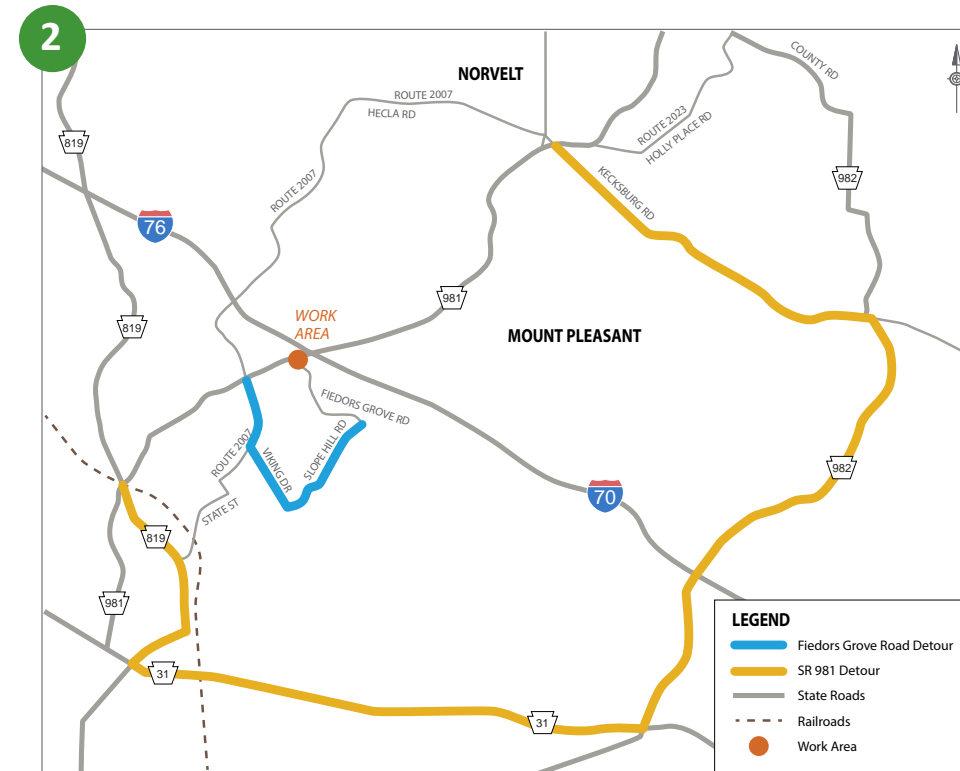
### DETOUR Route 819 Southern Approach

**Timing**  
Late Summer 2022

**Purpose**  
Prepare for construction of the Route 819 Roundabout with sanitary sewer work and construction of the box culvert carrying Shupe Run under the new roadway

**Closure**  
Route 819 closed at the southern approach to the intersection

- Detour Route**
- Passenger vehicles will use State Street and Route 981.
  - Larger vehicles will use Routes 31 and 119.



### DETOUR Route 981/Fiedors Grove Road

**Timing**  
Late Summer 2022, 10-day duration

**Purpose**  
Construction of new Route 981 alignment from Hecla Road to just north of the PA Turnpike.

**Closure**  
Route 981 near Fiedors Grove Road and PA Turnpike Bridge

- Detour Route**
- Fiedors Grove Road traffic will use Viking Drive and State Street.
  - Route 981 Traffic will use Route 819, Route 31, Route 981, and Kecksburg Road.

*Note: Temporary signals will be installed in this area in early summer when Route 981 will be reduced to a single lane.*



## WORK ZONE SAFETY

Drive carefully for your safety and the safety of highway workers.

- Drive the posted work zone speed limit.
- Stay alert and pay close attention to signs and flaggers.
- Turn on your headlights if signs instruct you to do so.
- Maintain a safe distance around vehicles. Don't tailgate.
- Use four-way flashers when stopped or traveling slowly.
- Avoid distractions and give your full attention to the road.
- Always buckle up.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Be patient.



*Excavation for new Route 981 near Carpentertown Road*

## Stay in Touch with the Project Team

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Follow PennDOT and 511PA for the most updated information as traffic conditions and patterns change.



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