

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are some common questions frequently asked of the project team.

1. What will you be building in this project?

We don't have any specific project defined yet. In the first phase, we will be working with the affected communities and the public to identify the problems and needs, and then we will identify projects that will address those needs. Upon the completion of the Alternatives Analysis, a project will be identified for advancement.

2. Why don't you just widen the Parkway and/or the tunnels?

The Parkway East is threaded through the surrounding neighborhoods on a very narrow strip of land. Widening it would be tremendously expensive and would be disruptive to the very communities it serves.

3. What about the Mon/Fayette Expressway?

The Mon/Fayette Expressway is a proposed extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike that could provide an alternative route to the Squirrel Hill tunnels. The Expressway is currently being studied by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Visit the project website for details: www.patpconstruction.com/monfaysb

4. Will you add more traffic to my local roads?

We are looking at the Parkway as well as the network of roads that serve the eastern communities, and we will consider improvements anywhere on the network. In some cases, improvements may result in increased traffic flow, but any improvement will be evaluated for its effects upon other roadways. We recognize that these roads are a part of the communities they serve, and we want to minimize adverse effects.

5. What about alternative transportation modes?

Several multimodal improvements have been examined as a part of this study including park and ride lots and new trail connections.

6. Is this just another study with no action?

No. Major transportation improvements can take years to plan, design and implement. The Department wants to see real improvements in this corridor, and we will be looking for possible projects that could be implemented more quickly.

7. How will this work be funded?

Funding is currently available through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) for construction of improvements in the project corridor. Depending on the alternatives identified during this study, it is possible that some additional improvements may be funded in the future through the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a fiscally-constrained program which prioritizes projects based on benefits and costs.