

Marshalls Creek: Where Transportation Meets Conservation Mark Geiser and Lonnie Young Transportation Engineering and Safety Conference - 2019



Agenda

- Project Location and Project Needs
- Traffic Issues, Traffic Mitigation, and the Project Solution
- Project Timeline
- Right-sized Design
- Natural Resources Present
- Project Impacts
- Mitigation including wetland, stream, and terrestrial
- Questions

Project Team

- PennDOT District 5-0
- Dewberry Engineers
- Rettew Associates
- Larson Design Group



- GTS Technologies (now American Engineers Group)
- Cultural Heritage Research Services (CHRS)
- Bergmaier Communications



Project Location













Project Needs

- Lack of smooth transition from I-80 to US 209 to SR 402
- Congestion as a result of three intersections converging and having inadequate separation distances between them
- Congestion in Marshalls Creek due to unacceptable levels of service
- Unacceptable emergency response times





Traffic Issues

- Tourist area
- Bedroom community to New York City
- Unchecked land development
- Around 2010, Monroe Co. was one of the fastest growing counties in PA
- Peak traffic times were on the weekend
- ADTs on US 209 near 35,000 in the design year
- Traffic growth rates of 3.5%
- Local population was stranded in their homes
- Poor local roadway network





Traffic Mitigation

- CTLUMS <u>C</u>omprehensive <u>Transportation Land Use</u> <u>Management Strategy</u>
- 400 space Park & Ride lot
- Installation of an emergency traffic signal at the Marshalls Creek Fire Company
- Roadway improvements at 3 outlying intersections





The Solution





Dewberry RETEN.

Project Timeline

- Project was conceived in the late 1980's.
- 1991 Feasibility Study performed.
- 1995 Draft EIS and public hearing held.
- 1997 Two rare species of fish (Shiners) discovered in Marshalls Creek. Preliminary Engineering begins.
- 2000 Design revised to avoid impacts to the fish population.
 FHWA issues ROD.
- 2002 Project is split into three phases of construction.

Project Timeline (cont.)

- 2004 Project delayed due to special conditions in the 404 Permit.
- 2004 Marcellus Shale containing pyrite found within the limits of the Phase I work area. Design revised to prevent ARD.
- 2005 Phase 1 project costing \$16M is let.
- 2007 Phase 2 project costing \$18M is let. Phase 3 estimated at \$70M. NTP is put on hold while the entire project is re-evaluated.
- 2008 The Great Recession hits the US. Traffic volumes decrease. New housing stops.



Project Timeline (cont.)

- 2008 Phase 2 project is pulled from ECMS. A new Phase 2 contract encompassing work on Oak Grove Drive is let at \$6.3M.
- 2008 PennDOT right-sizes the remainder of project. They needed a cheaper alternative with less impacts to the environment.
- 2009 The new design has 2 lanes and incorporates a roundabout.
- 2009 With about ¾ of final design completed, PennDOT decides to advertise Phase 3 as a Design-Build contract.
- 2010 Phase 3 project costing \$18M is let. Savings of \$52M!
- 2012 Construction is completed.
- 2013 to 2017 5 Year Environmental Monitoring is completed.



The Old Solution





The Right-Sized Solution











Natural Resources





Natural Resources (cont.)

- Marshalls Creek HQ-CWF
- Presence of Two PA Endangered Shiner Species
 - Bridle & Iron Colored



- Large Wetland Complex along Stream - EV
- Vernal Ponds
- Diverse Habitat and Vegetation High Quality





Project Impacts to Natural Resources

- Wetland Impacts 15 / 2.35 Acres
- Stream 11 crossings / 1,430 ft.
- Upland 57.8 Acres
 - 40 Acres of Forest
 - 13.4 Acres of Scrub Shrub
 - 3.9 Acres of Non-Productive Ag
 - 0.5 Acres of Herbaceous





Project Impacts to Natural Resources (cont.)





Mitigation

Goals

- Create Adjacent to Area of Impact
- Maintain/Enhance Biodiversity
- Create/Enhance Wildlife Habitat
- Protect Shiner Habitat
- Create Terrestrial Mitigation Adjacent to Wetland Replacement Site
- Remove Exotic Species



Wetland

- Creation of 3.19 Acres of Wetlands
- Preservation of 18.5 Acres of Wetlands

Stream

- 2 Riparian Buffer Planting Areas
- 1 Bridge Removal
- 2 Culvert Removals along Leap's Bog Drainage
- Stream Preservation

Terrestrial

 Preservation, Enhancement, and Restoration of 122.85 Acres of Forested and Herbaceous Habitat.





















