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COMMISSION NEWS RELEASE

Morris Road Bridge to close between Valley Forge and Bethel Roads
Detour Begins Tuesday in Worcester and Upper Gwynedd Townships

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission advises motorists that on May 4 at approximately 2 p.m. the bridge that carries Morris Road (SR 2001) over the Northeastern Extension (I-476) will be closed to through traffic for approximately seven months. This bridge replacement project is located in Upper Gwynedd and Worcester Townships, Montgomery County.

Once closed, through traffic will be detoured over Valley Forge Road (Route 363), Skippack Pike (Route 73) and Bethel Road (SR 3006) until the new bridge reopens late 2010. Morris Road is a state road; therefore, the Turnpike's Morris Road Bridge detour must be on other state roads and approved by PennDOT.

J. F. Shea Construction Inc. of Mt. Pleasant, Pa., was awarded the \$7.8 million contract to replace the bridge. Since March, the builder has relocated communication and utility lines on Morris Road and continues to make PennDOT approved upgrades at the intersections of Shearer, Weber and Berks Roads on Skippack Pike (Rt. 73), between Valley Forge and Bethel Roads.

Motorists traveling in both directions on Skippack Pike should stay alert for intermittent flagging operations limiting traffic to one lane and other restrictions between the hours of 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6 p.m.-6 a.m. until the contractor completes necessary improvements for the detour route. Work on Skippack Pike includes adding temporary traffic signals and an eastbound left-turn lane onto Shearer and Weber Roads, and a left-turn lane for eastbound and westbound Skippack Pike traffic onto Berks Road. Additionally, traffic signals will be revised at intersections along the detour route.

Coordination meetings were held with PennDOT and township officials to discuss the detour's impact to the surrounding communities. The detour will be outside of the townships detour (Sumneytown Pike) which uses a portion of Morris Road that will not be closed. This should allow the Sumneytown Pike detour to operate more effectively. For more information on the Township's Sumneytown Pike project go to www.uppergwynedd.org.

Motorists traveling the Northeastern Extension near the bridge at milepost A27.20 should anticipate reduced speeds, lane closures, stoppages and overnight road closures when approaching the work area. Within the work zone, speed limits will be reduced to 55 mph and 40 mph when the lights on the active work-zone signs are flashing.

Questions or concerns about the Morris Road project can be directed to the project hotline at 1-877-855-2545. For additional information on the Northeastern Extension Total Reconstruction and Widening Project, visit the web site at www.paturnpike.com.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike urges the public to stay alert and travel at posted speed limits through all work zones.