Creativity for Corridor Challenges:

I-83 North York Widening

Project Summary

The I-83 North York Widening Project encompasses the I-83 corridor located on the northern side of York, PA including Interchanges at Exits 19, 21 and 22. The corridor is in a predominantly urbanized area that involves residential, agricultural, commercial, and industrial land uses. A variety of transportation modes are present, including vehicular, transit, rail, bicycle, and pedestrian. The primary purpose of this project is to reconstruct this section of I-83 to achieve a more functional and modern roadway that maximizes current design criteria. The secondary purpose of this project is to improve future traffic flow, queuing, and safety on I-83 and the interchanges in the 2042 design year. It was also a critical goal to reduce flooding of the interstate for the 50-year design event.

The reconstruction will widen the highway from its current four-lane configuration to a six-lane system including a 26-ft divided median and widened outside shoulders. Because the highway is in a densely developed area, alignment modifications of the interstate were limited but some realignment was accomplished to minimize impacts to adjacent wetlands, streams, and floodplains. Innovative 2D hydraulic modeling was needed to accurately evaluate overtopping frequency of the interstate and the design of the 1-mile stream relocation. A variety of engineered slopes are also proposed to minimize the widened footprint and associated impacts to resources while helping to achieve water quality requirements. To successfully deliver a project of this magnitude and efficiently permit each construction section, the environmental clearance and permitting strategy included several Categorical Exclusion Evaluations, a concise Environmental Assessment, an Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Plan, and one of the first Comprehensive Environmental Assessments ever done in PA. Complete reconstruction of this 5-mile stretch is expected to occur by 2029.