

ED GAINES
MAYOR



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**City of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announce the
Upcoming Full Closure of the Fern Hollow Bridge**

PITTSBURGH — The City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) will close Forbes Avenue from South Dallas Avenue to South Braddock Avenue beginning Monday, June 12, for construction activities associated with the new Fern Hollow Bridge.

The bridge has been open to two lanes of traffic since December. The upcoming four-week closure, June 12-July 7, will allow PennDOT's contractor, Swank Construction Company, the time needed to complete all remaining bridge work. This includes final milling, paving, and pavement markings, as well as artistic enhancements to the bridge sidewalk and barrier and the installation of a polyester polymer concrete overlay on the bridge deck. This treatment preserves the longevity of the deck surface to reduce future maintenance and extend the life of the bridge.

During the bridge closure, the detour route will use South Dallas Avenue, Penn Avenue, and South Braddock Avenue.

Once completed, the bridge will reopen to all four lanes of vehicular traffic. Additionally, Tranquil Trail, which runs under the bridge, will be reopened; the cycle track/protected bike lane on Forbes Avenue will be complete; and the north sidewalk will be opened. One remaining task, installation of the signalized mid-block pedestrian crossing to the west of the bridge, will be completed in the fall after traffic signal poles are fabricated.

While the bridge work is occurring, DOMI will take advantage of the closure to finish [planned](#) traffic pattern and safety improvement work along the corridor. Several improvements have already been implemented, including:

- South Dallas Avenue, between Forbes Avenue and Beechwood Boulevard, has become one-way for southbound traffic only.
- The "Stop Except Right Turn" sign on southbound South Dallas Avenue has been removed and a dedicated left-turn lane added to reduce motorist confusion.
- A stop sign on Beechwood Boulevard eastbound at South Dallas Avenue has been added to simplify intersection operations for southbound Dallas Avenue traffic.

The remaining changes, to be completed during the closure, include:

- The intersection of Beechwood Boulevard and Beacon Street will receive a stop sign on westbound Beechwood Boulevard to make the intersection an all way stop. This will reduce confusion and improve safety for pedestrian crossings.
- Concrete jersey barriers will be installed along Forbes Avenue to protect the new two-way cycle track.
- A reduced speed limit on Forbes Avenue from South Dallas Avenue to Braddock Avenue, consistent with other parts of the Forbes Avenue corridor.
- A pedestrian walking space on north Beechwood Boulevard that connects to the end of the existing Beechwood Boulevard sidewalk.
- A speed table on Beechwood Boulevard to further calm traffic in advance of an area heavy with bike and pedestrian usage.

Additional information on the traffic project design and intersection improvements, can be viewed at: <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/complete-streets/s-dallas-ave-forbes-ave-beechwood-blvd-safe-connections>.