

## CLINTON AVENUE CSX CROSSING PROJECT STATUS

June 15, 2019

The upgrades and repairs to the crossing are, primarily, a Department of Transportation (DOT) and CSX project. The Borough has a relatively minor role due to the fact that some of the upgrades will be completed in the Borough right of way.

The short story of the history of the project is that it stalled in early April, 2018. CSX required that Northvale put up \$17,600 into an escrow account to cover CSX engineering services pertaining to Borough property. Probably due to financial reasons, the Borough did not respond to the request for escrow funds.

Upon assuming office in January of this year, I started working with Congressman Gottheimer's office, Senator Booker's office and other local Mayors to determine who the appropriate, high level CSX contacts were. After several phone calls and email exchanges with two senior CSX Vice Presidents, the only conclusion that one could come to was that absolutely nothing was going to happen at the crossing until the Borough put the escrow funds in place. The 2019 Council has taken the appropriate action, funded the project and in doing so "turned it back on".

The scope of the project is well beyond repairing the roadway.

1. Pedestrian gates and new roadway gates with LED lighting will be installed.
2. The gate on the approach heading east will be moved, probably to the knoll. The knoll will have to be re-graded. The gate on the approach heading west might also be moved.
3. Drainage improvements will be made. This work might expand in scope because there are signs of more extensive water damage. The DOT will repair the catch basin that is immediately to the west of the tracks.
4. Repaving the roadway, sidewalk work and rails work are all part of the project.
5. The sidewalk west of the tracks will be moved to the south, into what is currently the knoll area, to create greater separation of pedestrians from the roadway. Connecting the new sidewalk to the street will be an ADA curb cut.
6. Timeline: DOT and CSX estimate that the project will be shovel ready in, approximately, mid-November. Engineering design plus the need to obtain permits will consume a good part of that lead time. The Mayor and Council are working closely with CSX engineers to ensure that the schedule doesn't slide out.
7. The anticipated timeline takes us into the winter months so, in all likelihood, the Borough's portion of the work, most of the sidewalk west of the tracks, will be completed in spring, 2020.
8. The crossing will be closed for approximately five days.

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