

CheckUp Extra

Site & Facilities

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Roadwork to Result in Added Safety, Access & Convenience

Lehigh Valley Hospital is initiating and funding a project that will ease the flow of traffic and improve automotive safety along Cedar Crest Boulevard and the hospital's main access road.

"The project, which will be completed in six phases, is designed to alleviate the congestion that makes driving conditions less than ideal for hospital and general traffic," says Ken Erland, Vice-President, Facilities and Construction.

Phase 1 (Sept. 26 - 29)

Following more than 18 months of planning and review by hospital and PennDot officials, the project will begin Monday, Sept. 26 with the removal of the median at the entrance of the hospital's main access road and two "islands" that allow drivers to ease off Cedar Crest Blvd. and onto the hospital campus or the 1243-51 office buildings. The work will be completed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to minimize traffic tie-ups and will conclude on Sept. 29.

Phase 2 (Sept. 30 - Oct. 27)

The second phase of the project will begin the following day and continue through Oct. 27. During this time frame, a section of Cedar Crest Blvd. (extending north of the hospital to the I-78 exit ramp and south to Fish Hatchery Road) will be widened.

"Currently, drivers turning right onto Cedar Crest Blvd., eastbound off of I-78, wind up in the right-turn only hospital lane," says Erland. "Often drivers, particularly those who are not familiar with the road, try to

merge unsuccessfully with traffic in the southbound thru lanes. By widening Cedar Crest Blvd. to accommodate two thru lanes and a right-hand lane, we can help to prevent this problem."

Phase 3 (Oct. 25 - 30)

Phase 3 will begin as Phase 2 draws to a close and continue from 9 p.m. - 6 a.m. daily. During this time, the intersection of the hospital's main entry drive and Cedar Crest Blvd. will be widened to facilitate traffic flow into and out of the hospital campus.

Phase 4 (Oct. 17 - Nov. 11)

Concurrent with Phase 3, contractors will proceed with Phase 4 and plans to widen the inbound and outbound main and south access roads to the hospital.

Phase 5 (Nov. 12 - 30)

During Phase 5, a median will be installed in the center of the hospital's main access road along with two islands to ease traffic in and out of the hospital.

Phase 6 (April 1995)

The project will be suspended during the winter months and resume in April 1995 for the final phase when the Cedar Crest Blvd. southbound left-turn lane will be extended.

"This project is an ambitious one," says Erland, noting that in addition to roadwork, it will entail the resynchronization of five traffic lights, the removal of trees and shrubs at the hospital entrance and subsequent landscaping and the installation of new signage. "By its very nature, the project will create some inconveniences for the travelling public," Erland says. "But, the end-result will be improved road conditions in terms of safety, access and convenience, for general as well as hospital traffic." ■