



The Boulevard

December 2007
Project Newsletter



WilburSmith
ASSOCIATES



Oakland Task Force



McTish, Kunkel & Associates
Allentown • Pittsburgh • Montoursville

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SR 0885 Section A03 and SR 2108 Sections A04 & A05 Boulevard of the Allies over Forbes Avenue Bridge Replacement

Status of Project/Detour Information

Summary

The 2007 construction season wraps up with the biggest change being the addition of the new North Ramp (SR 2108) that will provide access to the Boulevard of the Allies (SR 0885) Northbound directly from Fifth Avenue. No longer will traffic leaving Oakland have to use the counterflow lane on Forbes Avenue to access the Boulevard of the Allies. The new ramp is open prior to the closure of the Boulevard of the Allies to allow motorists to get accustomed to the new pattern.

The new ramp was opened ahead of schedule, and we are ready to close the Boulevard of the Allies and begin construction of the new

bridge over Forbes Avenue and the new South Ramp.

Detailed Traffic Restrictions

FORBES AVENUE

Restrictions to Forbes Avenue in 2008 will be similar to those encountered during 2007. During the beginning of the construction season, a single lane restriction will be in place in the left lane starting under the Birmingham Bridge and will continue to McDevitt Place. The existing counterflow lane from Craft Avenue to the Boulevard of the Allies will be closed. As work progresses, different restrictions will take place in various lanes. Be aware of changing traffic patterns and pay attention to

traffic signs and posted construction speed limits.

The City will close access from Forbes Avenue to Ophelia and Lawn Streets during the 2008 construction season.

Beginning, tentatively, April 28, 2008, Forbes Avenue will be restricted to a single lane of traffic from the Parkway East (I-376) Ramp merge with Forbes Avenue to McDevitt Place. Traffic on Forbes Avenue will be brought to a stop condition, similar to the pattern seen this construction season, and the Parkway Ramp traffic will be allowed to proceed without stopping.

Continued on Page 3

Aerial View of Project



View of New Boulevard Bridge



Project Improvements

The Boulevard of the Allies Mainline and South Ramp bridges will be completely demolished and reconfigured with a new Mainline Bridge and an exit ramp to Forbes Avenue. Vehicles using the south exit ramp will no longer have to stop before merging onto Forbes Avenue. The south exit ramp lane will flow onto Forbes Avenue via a lane dedicated to merging south ramp traffic. This lane will eliminate the dangerous conditions caused by the site obstructions and traffic merging onto Forbes Avenue from a stop condition.

Travel lanes on the bridge and along the entire project will have wider lanes and will provide more safety features than the existing bridges and road-

ways. A median barrier will be placed on the Mainline Bridge and will extend west towards Downtown.

Construction of a new North Ramp from Fifth Avenue directly to the Boulevard of the Allies has eliminated the counterflow lane on Forbes Avenue.

With the elimination of the counterflow lane, the three existing narrow lanes entering Oakland will be widened.

The intersection of Robinson Street, Fifth Avenue, and Maurice Street, have been reconfigured at the request of the City of Pittsburgh, using traffic islands and improved signage. The new configuration will allow for better

traffic movements on Fifth Avenue, Robinson Street and the new North Ramp.

Drainage and sewer improvements will be made along the length of the project. Storm water drainage will be separated from the existing combined sanitary and storm sewer system as required by Federal Regulations.

The traffic signal at Craft Avenue and the Boulevard of the Allies will be replaced and upgraded. The traffic signal at Craft Avenue and Forbes Avenue will require timing modifications and improved signage.



Detour Information

Continued from Page 1

Traffic will be required to merge into the right lane.

Again, several variations will occur with a single lane being open to traffic as work progresses, so be alert for changes. Tentatively, by August 24, 2008, Forbes Avenue will be opened back to 2 lanes of unrestricted traffic from the Parkway East (I-376) Ramp merge with Forbes Avenue to McDevitt Place.

***Weekend Closures** – Forbes Avenue will be closed completely to traffic several weekends for construction activities including demolition of the existing bridges and erection of the structural steel for the new mainline bridge. Advance notice will be given for the weekend closures. These will take place from Friday at 10:00 p.m. until Monday at 6:00 a.m. Weekend Closures will take place several times throughout January and February and again later in the year.

BOULEVARD OF THE ALLIES (SR 0885)

The Boulevard of the Allies will be closed to all thru traffic between January 3, 2008 at midnight through the end of November 2008, tentatively. All Northbound traffic approaching the Boulevard of the Allies bridge will be directed onto Craft Avenue and onto the new North Ramp from Fifth Avenue. All Southbound traffic approaching Oakland will follow the main detour plan or be forced to follow the contingency detour by way of the Boulevard of the Allies exit ramp to Parkway East (I-376), just past Mercy Hospital. Again, the new North Ramp will be in use and traffic leaving Oakland can access the Boulevard of the Allies Northbound, Crosstown Boulevard (I-579) and the Parkway East (I-376) Westbound via the new North Ramp.

FIFTH AVENUE

There are no planned long-term traffic restrictions on Fifth Avenue for the remainder of the project.

Detailed Detour Information

FROM DOWNTOWN AND CROSSTOWN BOULEVARD (SR 579)

Traffic will be directed through downtown via Grant Street and onto the Parkway East (I-376) EB toward Monroeville. Once on the Parkway East, traffic will take the Oakland exit onto Forbes Avenue.

FROM THE NORTH SHORE AND NORTH HILLS – SR 279, SR 28 & SR 65

Traffic coming into Oakland from the North will be directed onto the Parkway East (I-376) EB via the Fort Duquesne bridge toward Monroeville. Once on the Parkway East, traffic will take the Oakland exit onto Forbes Avenue.

FROM THE WEST/AIRPORT – PARKWAY WEST (SR 279) & FORT PITT TUNNELS

Traffic coming through the Fort Pitt Tunnels and across the Fort Pitt Bridge will be directed onto the Parkway East (I-376) EB toward Monroeville. Once on the Parkway East, traffic will take the Oakland exit onto Forbes Avenue.

FROM THE SOUTH HILLS – SR 51 & WEST LIBERTY AVENUE

Traffic from the South Hills crossing the Liberty Bridge will be directed onto Forbes Avenue.

FROM THE EAST/MONROEVILLE – PARKWAY EAST (SR 376)

Traffic from the East approaching on the Parkway East (SR 376) WB will be unchanged into Oakland. Traffic will take the Oakland exit at Bates Street.

CONTINGENCY DETOUR FOR MOTORISTS WHO MISSED INITIAL DETOUR SIGNS

This is the longest detour for the project. It would be quicker to take Crosstown Boulevard (SR 579) thru down-

town to Grant Street if possible. All traffic approaching Oakland from the Boulevard of the Allies (SR 0885) SB will be directed onto the Parkway East (I-376) EB. The detour will direct traffic through the Squirrel Hill Tunnels to the Swissvale exit onto Monongahela Avenue then to South Braddock Avenue. The detour will then direct traffic back onto the Parkway East (I-376) WB toward Downtown, through the Squirrel Hill Tunnels to the Oakland exit to Bates Street.

SOUTH SIDE/BIRMINGHAM BRIDGE

This route will not be detoured except during weekend closures of Forbes Avenue. (See Below) Traffic crossing the Birmingham Bridge will use the Oakland exit ramp to Forbes Avenue.

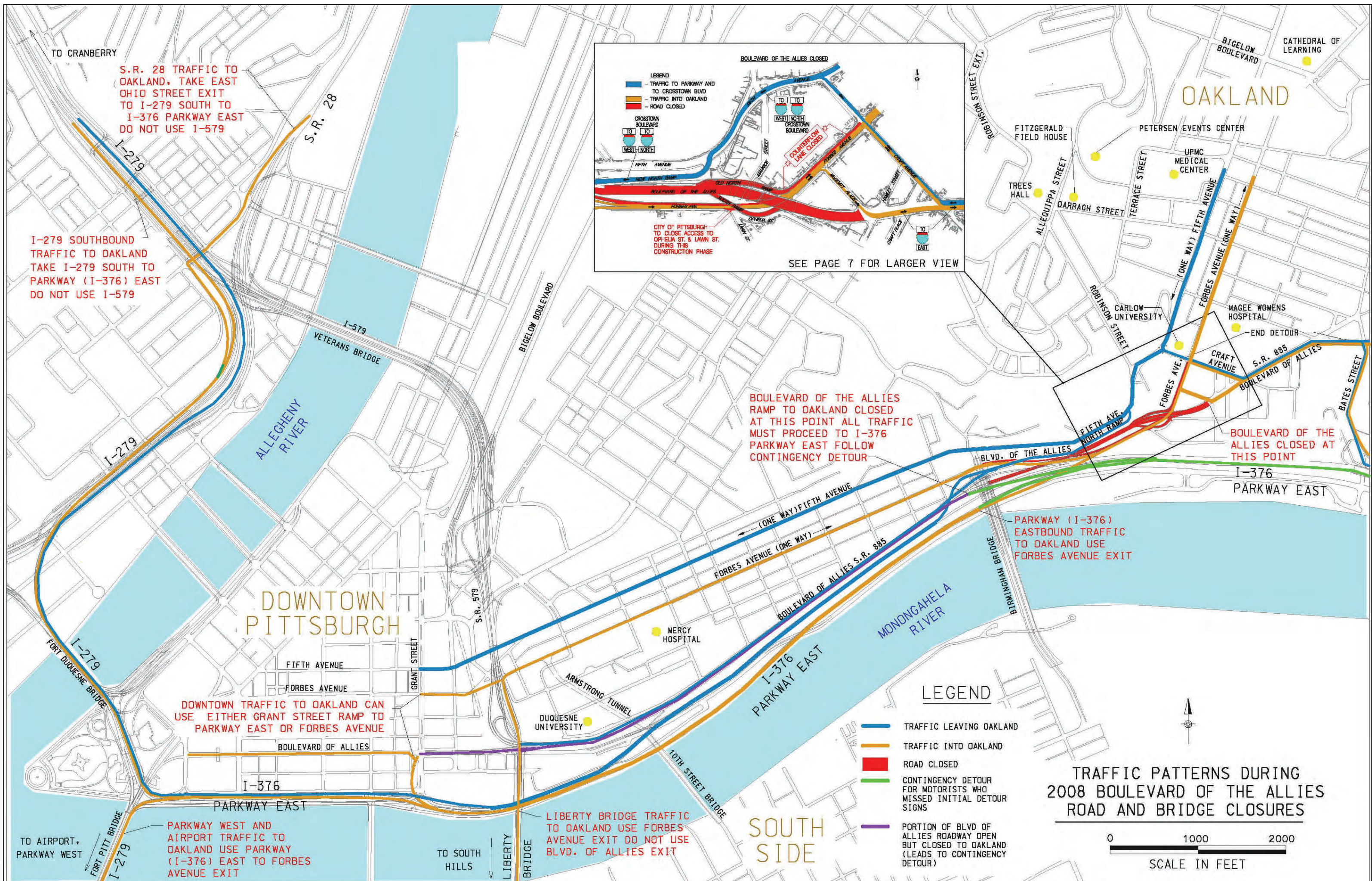
FORBES AVENUE WEEKEND CLOSURES

For all weekend closures of Forbes Avenue, all traffic routes approaching Oakland from Downtown, from the North and from the West will be directed onto the Parkway East (I-376) EB and directed to follow the detour as described above to the Swissvale exit and back on the Parkway East WB at the Bates Street exit.

Traffic that is approaching Oakland on Forbes Avenue from Downtown, will be directed onto Brady Street and then onto Second Avenue. From Second Avenue they will be directed onto Bates Street.

Traffic crossing the Birmingham Bridge toward Oakland will find the ramp to Forbes Avenue closed. The detour will then direct traffic to Fifth Avenue. Traffic will follow Fifth Avenue to Seneca Street, then onto Forbes Avenue where traffic will be directed onto Brady Street and then onto Second Avenue. From Second Avenue they will be directed onto Bates Street.

Truck Traffic is to follow the Truck Detours.



View of Fifth Avenue and New North Ramp



Fifth Avenue



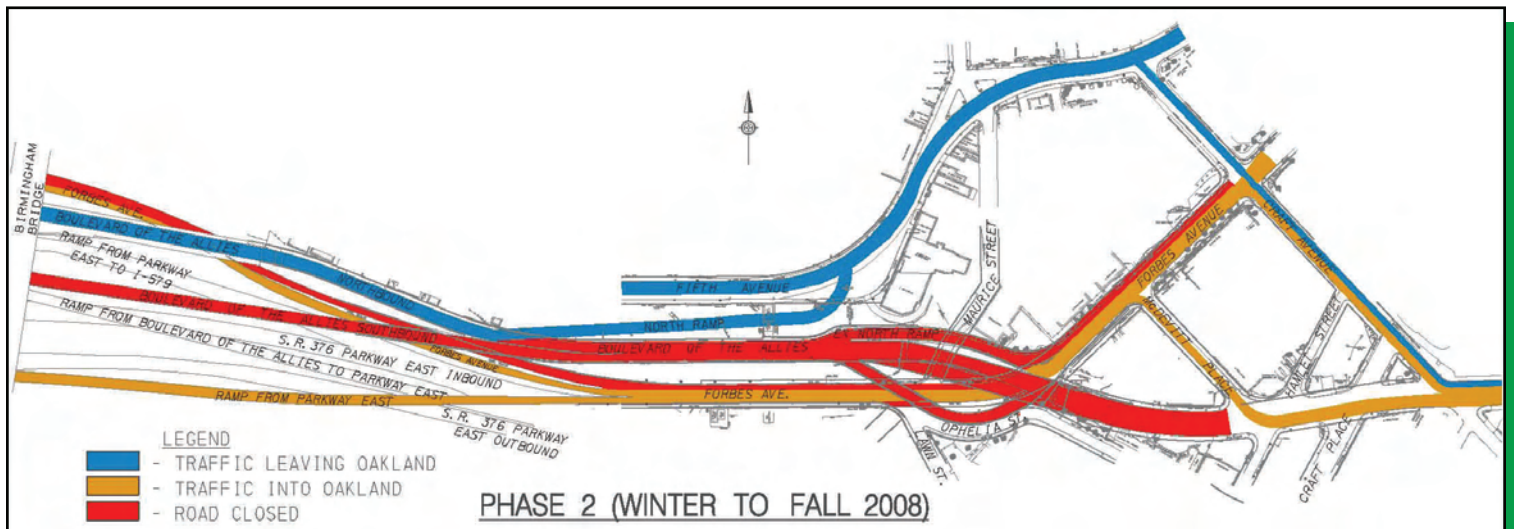
Entrance to new North Ramp

Boulevard of the Allies



Traveling down the new North Ramp

Phase 2 Construction





2007 Construction Season Review

The 2007 Boulevard of the Allies construction season has brought some definite improvements to the Oakland community. Crews worked hard to construct a new retaining wall between the Boulevard of the Allies and Fifth Avenue. This wall allowed for the proper support of the new North Ramp that connects Fifth Avenue directly to the Boulevard.

Three additional walls were constructed to hold the hillside between the new North Ramp and Fifth Avenue. These areas are to get landscaping treatments in the 2008 construction season. Crews also completely rebuilt two lanes of the Boulevard from where the North Ramp merges with the existing Boulevard to the western limits of the Project. This was done in 2007 so that detoured traf-

fic using the new North Ramp will not be impacted in 2008 while the Boulevard is shutdown.

You will also notice some changes on Fifth Avenue near the entrance to the new North Ramp. Fifth Avenue was resurfaced, a curb lane separator was added along with new drainage improvements and new sidewalks. Additional sidewalk work will be necessary in 2008 to further improve pedestrian traffic. Extensive storm water drainage work was done on Forbes Avenue to efficiently remove storm water runoff from the projects newly constructed roadways.

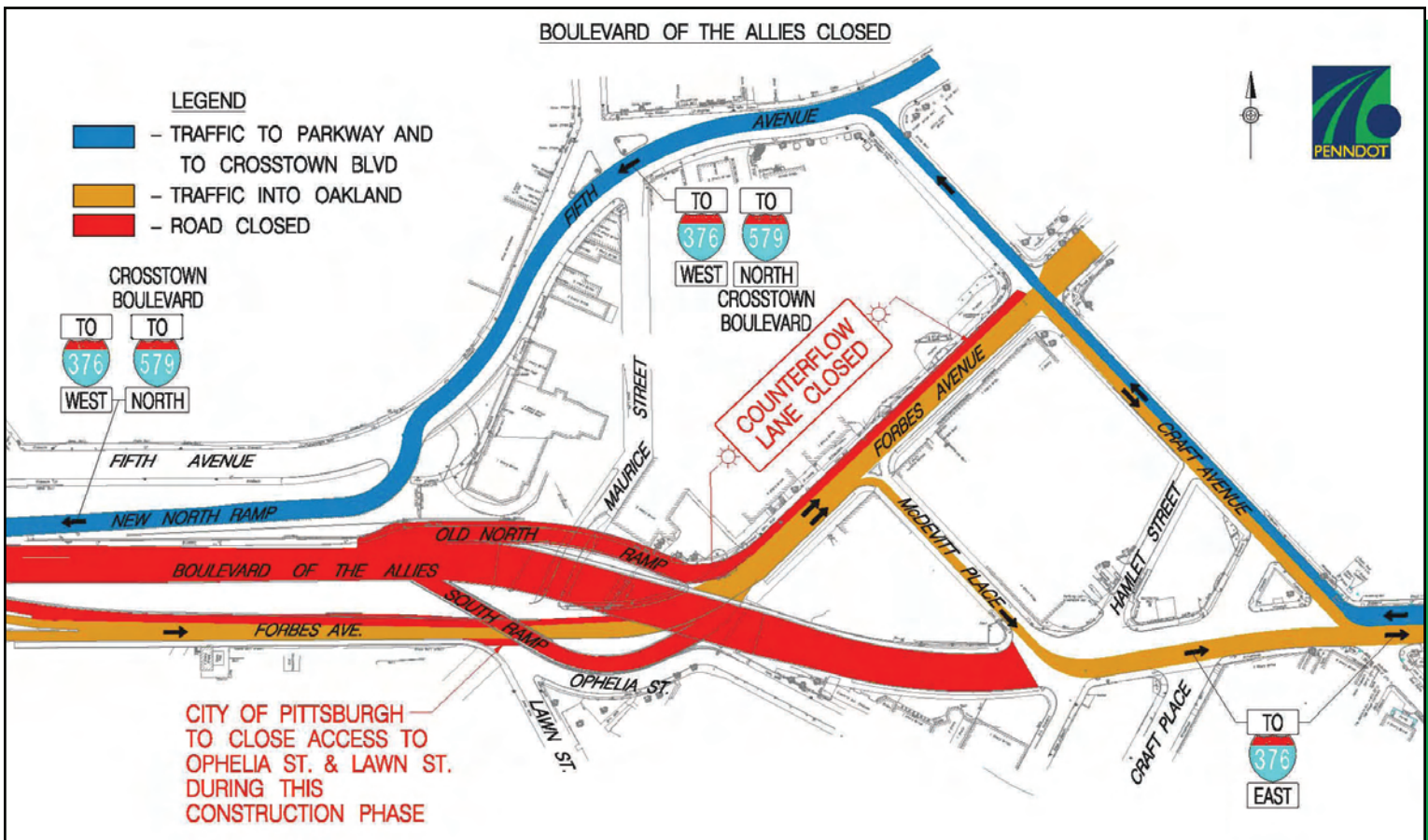
Also in cooperation with the City, a section of Forbes Avenue sidewalk was

reconstructed that included a barrier wall and pedestrian railing from the Parkway East (I-376) Ramp merge with Forbes Avenue to Ophelia Street. McDevitt Place was also resurfaced between Forbes Avenue and the Boulevard of the Allies. This street will be used during the Boulevard shutdown to allow access from Forbes Avenue to the Boulevard of the Allies SB.

In conclusion, all the parties involved in the Boulevard of the Allies Bridge Reconstruction would like to thank the motoring public for their patience and understanding during the 2007 construction season and also ask that they continue to drive safely and courteously during the 2008 construction season.

Boulevard of the Allies Closure

Traffic Detour Routes



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PENNDOT
On the Web at:

www.dot.state.pa.us

How Do Motorists Find Out More About The Detours?

Information about the detours will be readily available in many forms as construction details are finalized. In addition to the usual ways PennDOT alerts the public of upcoming detours, including press releases and public meetings, other sources will be available. Information will be posted on the PennDOT web-site, including fliers and images that can be easily downloaded.

Additionally, the Oakland Transportation Management Association (OTMA), a community outreach partner, will include project updates, community meeting notices, and project literature that will be available on their website: www.otma-pgh.org/project_sr885/default.aspx or by calling (412) 687-4505.

Look for more information online and in the news as the construction proceeds.

Official information and links can be found on PennDOT's website at:

www.dot.state.pa.us/district11

Project Timeline

Phase	Time Period	Work to Be Performed	Closures / Detours
2	Winter to Fall 2008	Demolition of existing North Ramp, Boulevard Bridge and South Ramp Construction of new South Ramp Construction of new retaining walls Construction of new Boulevard Bridge and roadway	Full detours in effect for Boulevard traffic (See Map Insert) New North Ramp open for use connecting Fifth Avenue and Boulevard to Downtown Left lane closures on Forbes from Moultrie Street to Craft Avenue Forbes Avenue counterflow lane removed and Forbes Avenue open to one-way traffic only
3	Spring 2009	Landscaping and irrigation installation Asphalt paving and pavement marking operations	Daily traffic restrictions during non-peak hours

Work Completed

Phase	Time Period	Work Included
1	2007	Resurfaced McDevitt Street Drainage work on Forbes Avenue, Boulevard, and Fifth Avenue Construction of retaining wall between Fifth Avenue and Boulevard Construction of new North Ramp connecting Fifth Avenue to Boulevard New sidewalk along Fifth Avenue and Forbes Avenue

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Current Contract Information

Mainline Bridge	\$ 4.0 M
Retaining Walls	\$ 10.5 M
Roadway Costs	\$ 13.3 M
Other(Lighting, Landscaping, etc.)	\$ 1.3 M
Total Contract Value	\$ 29.1 M

Summary of Project Quantities:

Excavation	40,000 cubic yards
Asphalt Paving	22,000 square yards
Concrete	13,000 cubic yards
Steel Piling	1,200,000 pounds
Steel Reinforcement	900,000 pounds
Drainage Pipe	4,600 feet
Retaining Walls	3,800 feet
Landscape Plants	8,600 each