

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS

National Project of the Year Award

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

AWARD CATEGORY (Check On	e): Under \$20 Milli	ion	
SPONSORING REGION (Check	One):		
Northeast	☐ Great Lakes	□ Northwest	
☐ Mid-Atlantic	☐ North Central	☐ Rocky Mountain	
□ Southeast	☐ South Central	□ Southwest	
CONTACT INFORMATION I	FOR SUBMITTING R	EGION:	
Contact Name: Scott R. Eshenaur	ASHE Region Po	osition: Judging Committee Chairperson	
Phone (Office): 717.790.9565 Phone (Mext. 10422	lobile): 717.580.8426	E-Mail Address: sreshenaur@modjeski.com	
PROJECT INFORMATION:			
ENTERING AGENCY/COMPANY'S NAME	E: Michael Baker International	U. I. D. I	
PROJECT NAME: 222 North Corridor Phase	1 - SR 0222 Section 22S	TYPE: Highway/Roadways	
PROJECT LOCATION: Maidencreek Townsh		om ton Department	
CITY: Blandon	COUNTY: Berks	STATE: Pennsylvania	
FINAL CONSTRUCTION COST: \$26,897,74 PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: 11/4/2022	BUDGETED C	ONSTRUCTION COST: \$26,671,266.68	
PROJECT ASHE SECTION: East Penn	ASHE SECTION CONTA	ACT NAME: Tom Dominiecki	
		E-MAIL: tdominiecki@gfnet.com	
PROJECT TEAM: PROJECT OWNER: Pennsylvania Department STREET ADDRESS: 1002 Hamilton Street	nt of Transportation, District 5-0		
CITY: Allentown	STATE: Pennsylvania	ZIP: 18101	
CONTACT PERSON: Michael Rebert, P.E.	PHONE: 610-871-4110		
	E-MAIL ADDRESS: mre	E-MAIL ADDRESS: mrebert@pa.gov	
PROJECT DESIGN FIRM: Michael Baker Inte	ernational		
STREET ADDRESS: 500 Office Center Drive,	Suite 210		
CITY: Fort Washington	STATE: Pennsylvania	ZIP: 19044	
CONTACT PERSON: Stephen T. Shimko	PHONE: 215-442-5319		
	E-MAIL ADDRESS: ssh	E-MAIL ADDRESS: sshimko@mbakerintl.com	
PRIME CONTRACTOR: J.D. Eckman, INC. STREET ADDRESS: 4781 Lower Valley Roa	d		
CITY: Atglen	STATE: Pennsylvania	ZIP: 19310	
CONTACT PERSON: Ed Norcross	PHONE: 610-806-2281		
	E-MAIL ADDRESS: en	E-MAIL ADDRESS: enorcross@jdeckmaninc.com	
	Objective	D 4 4/9/9999	
Entwy Form Completed Dye Stephen T	Snimko	Data: 1/6/2023	

2023 Project of the Year Submittal



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The scope of work of the overall project includes intersection improvements at the existing signalized intersections of SR 0222 and SR 0073, the replacement of a signalized intersection with a roundabout at SR 0222 and Tamarack Boulevard/Genesis Drive and the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of SR 0222 & Schaeffer Road. The work includes full reconstruction and widening along SR 0222 between the three intersections and will continue to the SR 0222 bridge over Willow Creek to the south.

The proposed intersection improvements have been developed to address existing traffic and safety issues. This project will improve intersection operations, overall delay through the corridor, and pedestrian accessibility. The proposed intersection improvements include widening of SR 0222 to a five-lane cross section with two lanes in each direction with a center turn lane and 10-foot shoulders. The 10-foot shoulders are provided for the accommodation of non-motorized traffic including horse and buggies and bicycles. The signalized improvement proposed at SR 0222 and SR 0073 includes turning lanes on the intersection approaches.

Multilane roundabouts are proposed at SR 0222 and Genesis Drive/Tamarack Boulevard and SR 0222 and Schaeffer Road to accommodate the design year traffic. The circulatory lanes of the roundabout will consist of one to two variable width lanes, a 12' truck apron, mountable curb, a concrete island and raised channelized splitter islands on each leg of the roundabout.

At the southern end of the project, the existing structure over Willow Creek will be reconstructed to accommodate the additional roadway width of four 11' lanes and two 10' shoulders.

Complexity

The project began construction in the fall of 2019 and was impacted in March of 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic. When the team was cleared to resume construction, the new pandemic protocols added an additional layer of coordination. The use of technology and collaboration tools – like video conferencing and instant messaging – bridged the gap when we were unable to physically be in the same place. This was a huge undertaking during construction, where most problems are typically solved in the field with face-to-face interactions.

Utility impacts were extensive; virtually every utility within the corridor had to be relocated to facilitate the construction of the proposed drainage features and roadway geometry. Relocations included major aerial lines, underground communication conduits, gas & water lines, and the replacement of the entire sanitary sewer system. The design team worked closely with the utilities to determine private status and identify future right-of-way needs.





2023 Project of the Year Submittal



The most complex aspect of the project was the maintenance and protection of traffic. To facilitate construction of the improvements, staged construction was implemented. The staging sequence required was designed to ensure minimum disruptions to motorists and to maximize access during construction.

The proposed MPT maintains one lane in each direction throughout the project duration. The project required various phases of construction which alternates traffic from one side of the road to the other to accommodate for the roadway, utility, and roundabout construction. A temporary signal was necessary to facilitate the control of the intersection at Genesis Drive/Tamarack Boulevard while the traffic signal at SR 0222 and SR 0073 remained operational during the entire length of construction.

To complicate matters even further, all construction phasing was required to be put into a winter pattern between November 15th and March 15th. This pattern required a minimum 14' lane in order to accommodate PennDOT snow plowing activities, which significantly reduced available work areas during these months.

New Application of Existing Techniques / Originality / Innovation

While roundabouts are still relatively new in Pennsylvania, there are more than 8,000 roundabouts in the United States. Studies have shown that roundabouts are often safer, more efficient, less costly, and more aesthetically appealing than the conventional stop or signal-controlled intersections.

By reducing the number and severity of conflict points, roundabouts are a significantly safer type of intersection. There are 32 conflict points associated with a conventional intersection — eight merging (or joining), eight diverging (or separating), and 16 crossing. In contrast, there are only eight total conflict points at an equivalent roundabout — four merging and four diverging. Not only are conflict points halved with the roundabout, the type of conflicts that remain are the same-direction variety, which result in substantially less severity, and as a result, less likelihood of injury.

There are several reasons why roundabouts help reduce the likelihood and severity of collisions:

Low travel speeds: Drivers must slow down and yield to traffic before entering a roundabout. Speeds in the roundabout are typically between 15 and 20 miles per hour. The few collisions that occur in roundabouts are typically minor and cause few injuries since they occur at low speeds.

No light to beat: Roundabouts are designed to promote a continuous, circular flow of traffic. Drivers need only yield to traffic before entering a roundabout; if there is no traffic in the roundabout, drivers are not required to stop. Because traffic is constantly flowing through the intersection, drivers don't have the incentive to speed up to try and "beat the light," like they might at a traditional intersection.



2023 Project of the Year Submittal



One-way travel: Roads entering a roundabout are gently curved to direct drivers into the intersection and help them travel counterclockwise around the roundabout. The curved roads and one-way travel around the roundabout eliminate the possibility for T-bone and head-on collisions.

Social / Economic Considerations

Horse-drawn buggies typically aren't a consideration in highway improvement initiatives, but that feature of the local society was a critical concern for this project. Together, the design of the roundabouts and the public awareness program helped convince members of the Mennonite community that the roundabouts would safely accommodate horse and buggies - their primary transport mode. Thus, this element of the local society was preserved and accounted for in the project's design.

The Samuel G. Kaufman House, located at the intersection of SR 0222 & SR 0073, was determined eligible for listing in the National Register in 1996. To avoid significant impacts to the property, several avoidance measures were successfully incorporated into the preferred alternative in order to achieve a finding of *No Adverse Effect*.

The Michael Baker team also worked closely with a local developer who indicated plans to develop a 90-acre parcel which lies adjacent to SR 0222. The team designed direct roundabout access to, and egress from that parcel. If the property is developed in the future, vehicular traffic can access that parcel from the roundabout at Schaeffer Road.

The roundabouts opened in June 2022 and quickly achieved one of their principal objectives, reducing the travel time between Allentown and Reading during peak hour travel by approximately 25 percent.

Safety

The roundabout intersection improvements will add several key safety features to the various intersections. The roundabouts will discourage drivers from driving quickly as the roundabout will only be navigable at lower speeds. The roundabouts will enhance the driver's alertness and will reduce the number of rear-end crashes by preventing sudden stopping, a characteristic of traditional signalized intersections and queued intersection approaches. The elimination of crossing vehicle paths reduces vehicle conflict points and the potential for crashes, thereby saving substantial travel time for motorists and costs for damages and emergency services.

PennDOT specifications require compliance with all applicable OSHA requirements, and the contractor submitted a project safety program prior to the beginning of work. All contractor personnel were required to wear appropriate safety equipment, and PennDOT field inspection staff were authorized to suspend any operation deemed to be life-threatening or presenting a risk of significant injury.





2023 Project of the Year Submittal



Regarding public safety, traffic control plans were developed to provide separation between the work area and the traveling public. Any field changes to the traffic control plans were submitted to the District for review and approval.

Aesthetics and Sustainable Features

While function and safety were the primary focus, the project was also designed to fit seamlessly into the existing environment. The roadway alignments and curvilinear geometry of the roundabout blend into the adjacent topography. Landscaping and numerous plantings were placed in and around the mitigation sties and roadside basins that occurred along the entire project. These features have visually improved the corridor as well as the adjacent residential and commercial properties.

Meeting and Exceeding Owner's / Client's Needs

PennDOT is very pleased with the completion of this SR 0222 Section 22S improvement project. The roundabouts were substantially complete and opened to traffic in June 2022, a date that exceeded client expectations.

Previously mentioned COVID issues delayed some construction work coupled with the discovery of some recurring sinkholes, resulted in a final cost slightly higher than the original low bid estimate. PennDOT indicated it regards this performance as outstanding, given the unexpected delays.

Anticipated Completion Date: 11/04/2022 Substantial Completion Date: 06/06/2022

Project Budget: \$26,671.266.68

Project Construction Cost: \$26,897,748.19

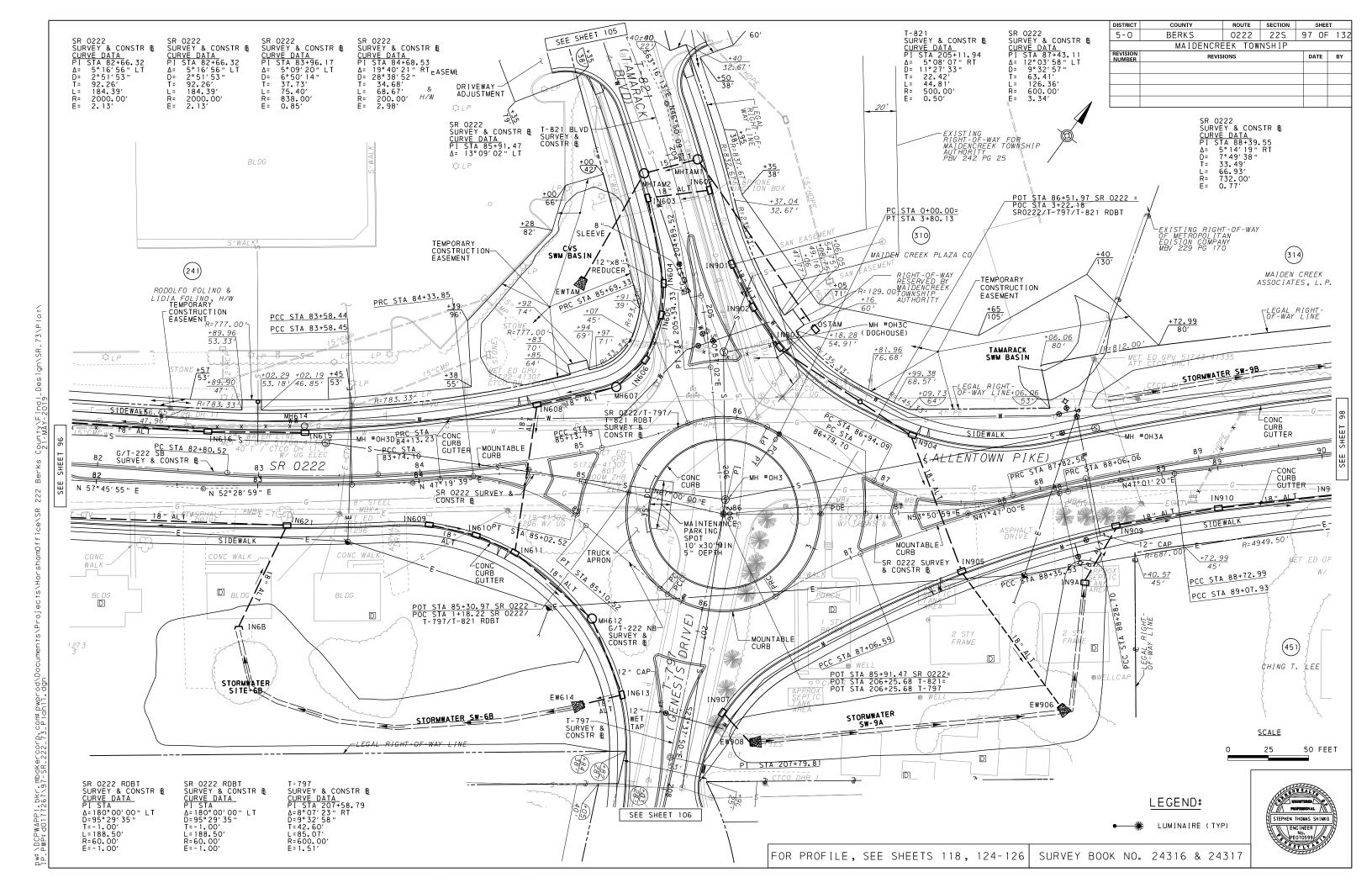
PennDOT had indicated that there have been no major incidents and no major traffic delays since the roundabouts have become fully operational.

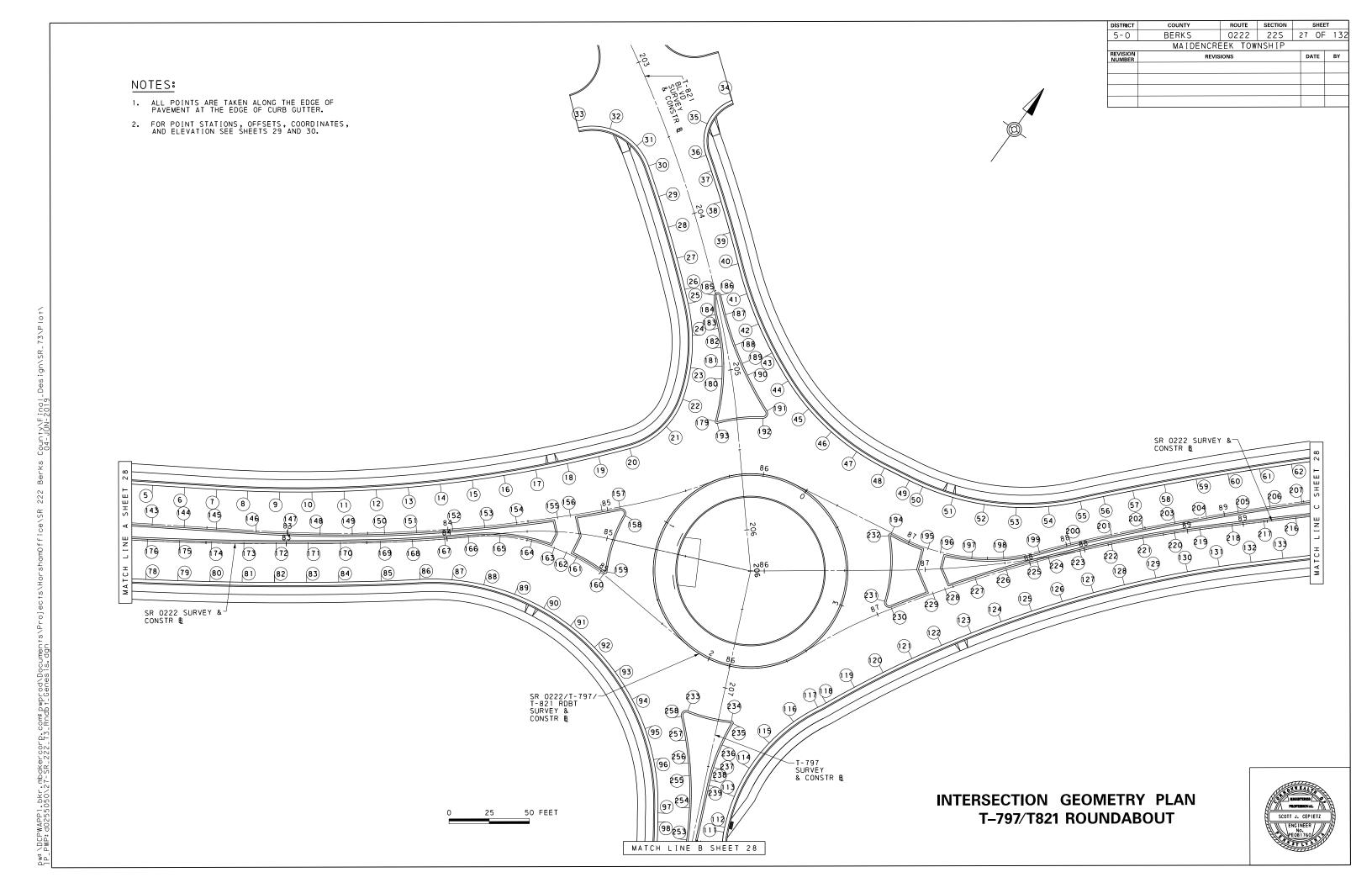
STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

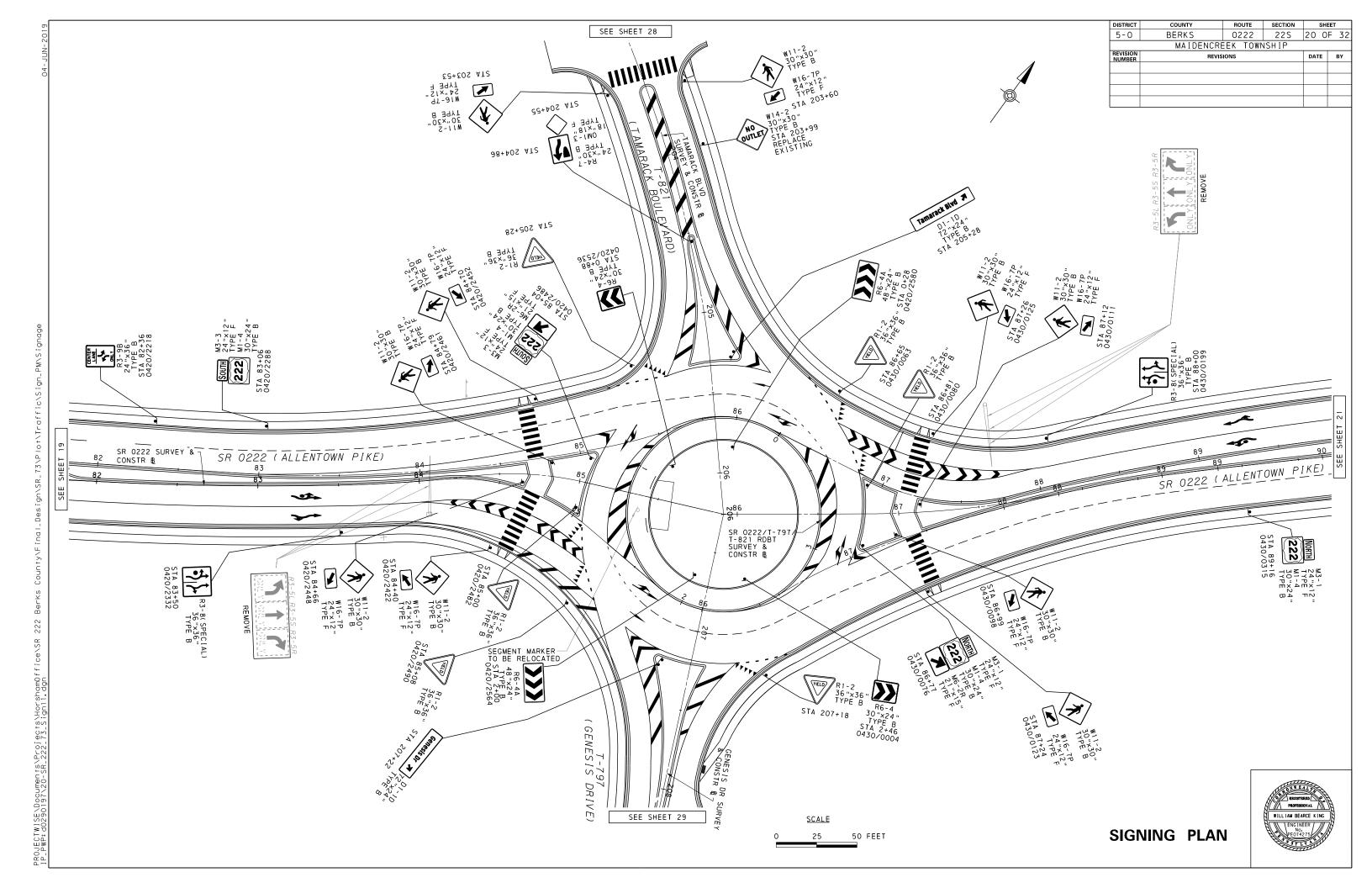
Michael Baker International would be pleased to attend the awards luncheon if the project was selected for the award.

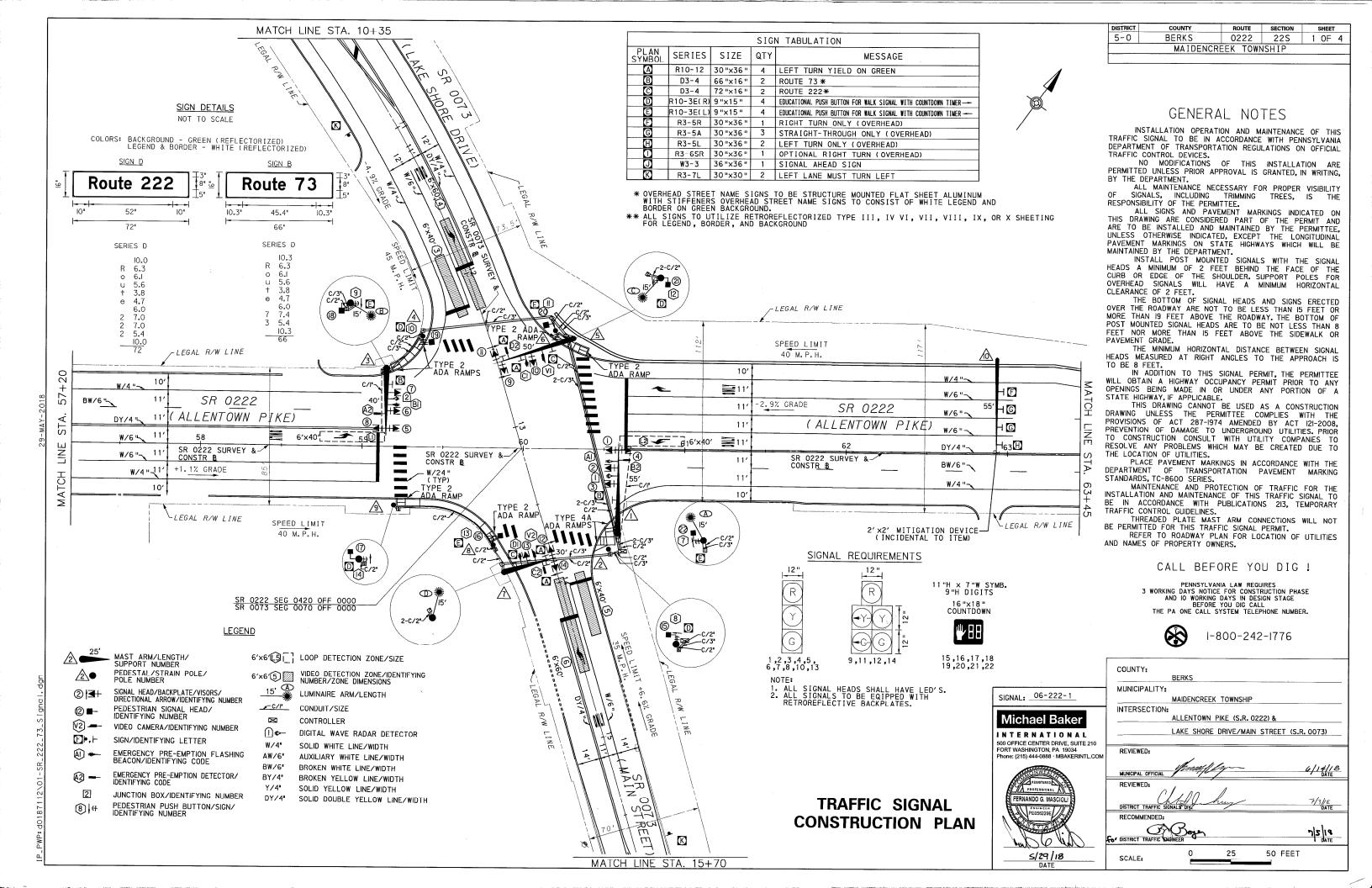


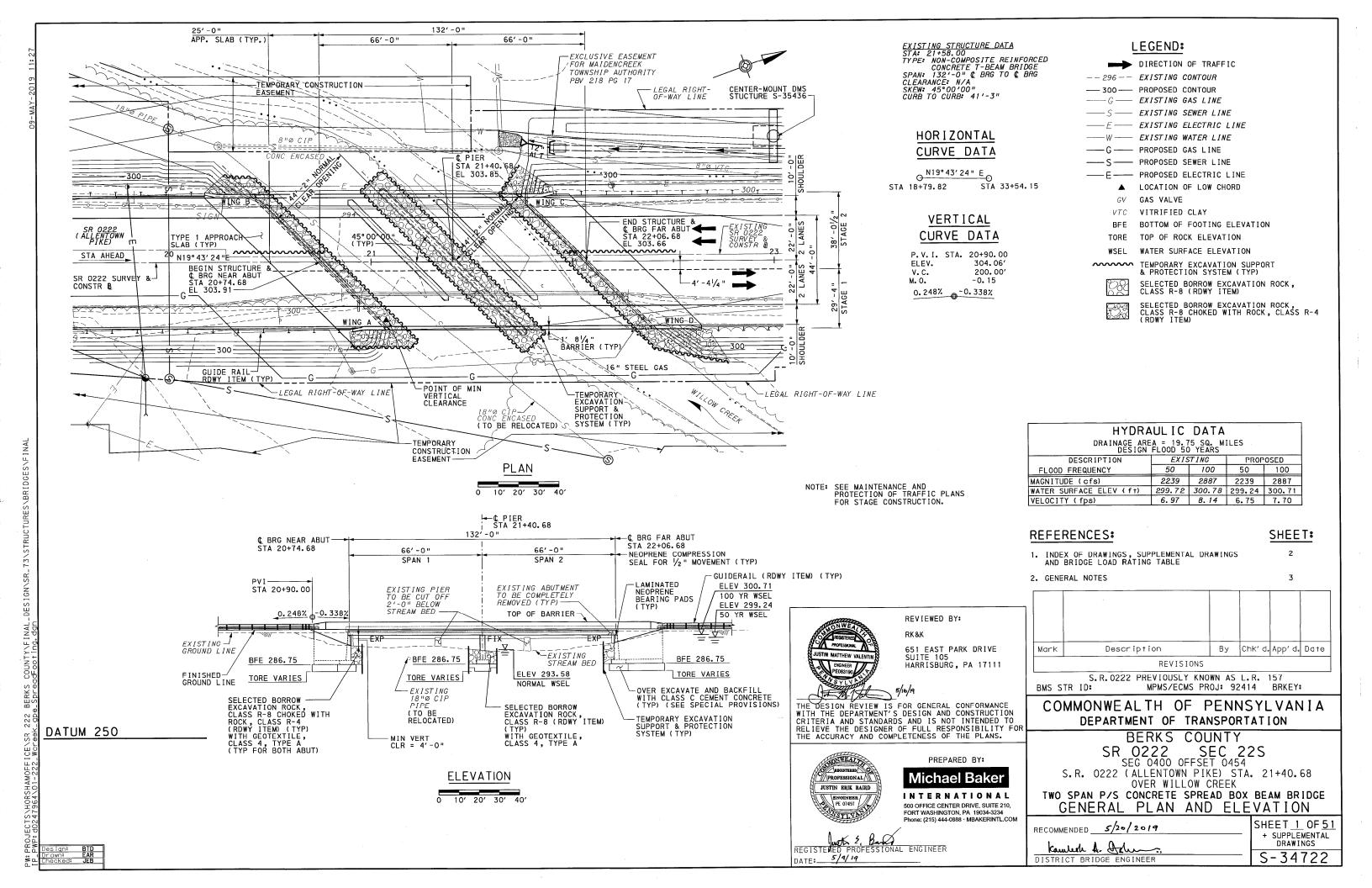














SR 0222 & Schaeffer Road Roundabout – looking Northbound Roundabout was designed to allow parcel along SB side to tie in as the $4^{\rm th}$ leg of roundabout when

developed. Pavement Markings can be eradicated on minor legs to allow for 2 lanes on interior of the roundabout. Mitigation sites constructed around roundabout for SWM.

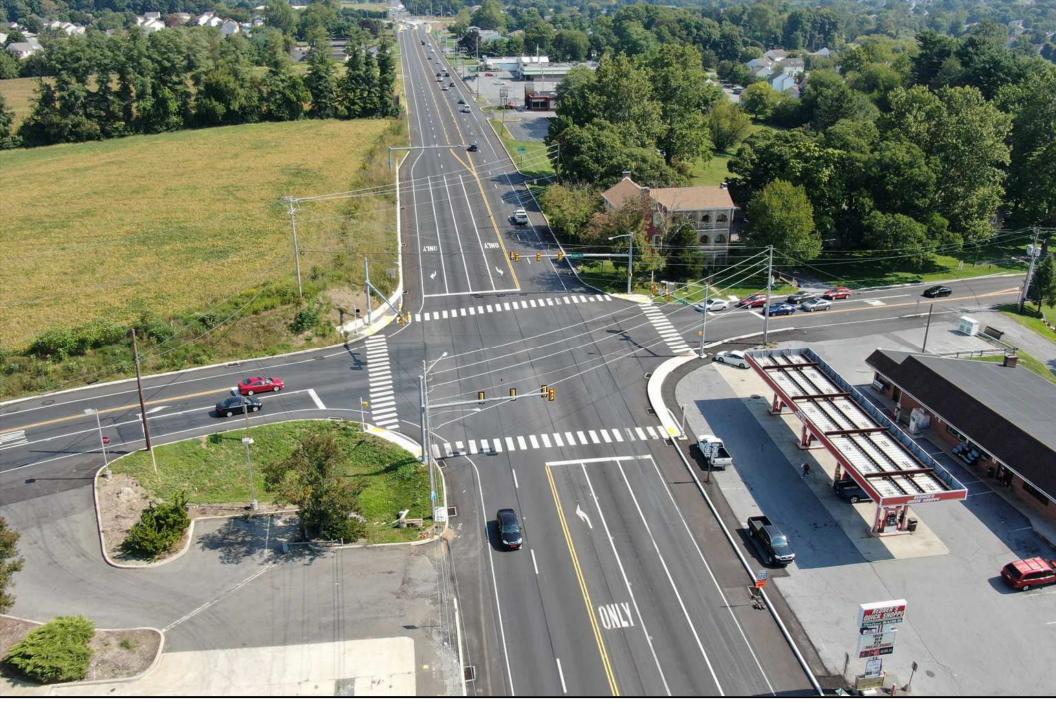


SR 0222 & Tamarack Blvd/Genesis Drive Roundabout

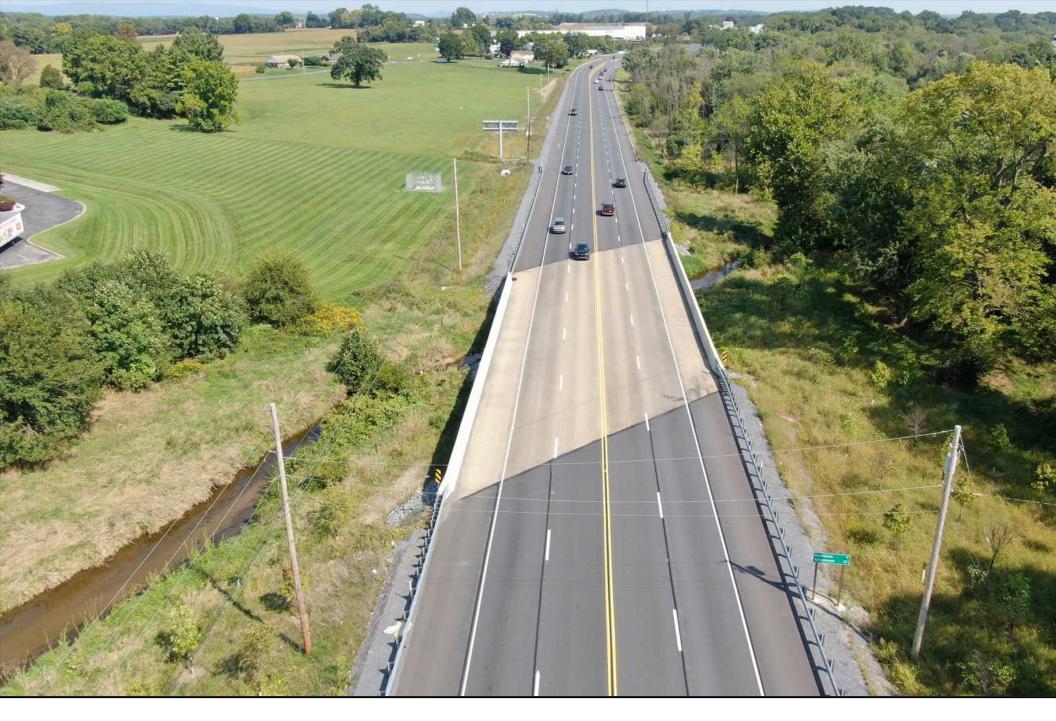
Roundabout replaced an existing signal which would cause major delays during peak hours. Existing Basins at CVS and Maidencreek Plaza were maintained (foreground). Newly constructed basins for project in background. Intersection had major utility and Traffic Control challenges.



SR 0222 – looking Northbound SR 0222 & Tamarack Blvd/Genesis Drive Roundabout in foreground – Schaeffer Road Roundabout in background.



SR 0222 at SR 0073 Intersection – looking Northbound Widened intersection, added turning lanes and provided pedestrian crossings – Improvements avoided historic parcel in top right quadrant of above photo.



SR 0222 at Willow Creek Bridge – looking Northbound Four Lane Typical Section - relocated aerial poles and newly installed DMS sign along SB side of Roadway.