

Work continues on Amtrak station, with date moved slightly later for targeted completion on West Main

by Dan Miller

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Crews work at the site of what will be the new Amtrak station along West Main Street on Wednesday, April 22.

STAFF PHOTO BY LAURA HAYES

Work is continuing toward building the new Amtrak train station along West Main Street in Middletown.

Amtrak crews continue to do the track-moving work that is essential to the project, Amtrak spokeswoman Beth K. Toll told the Press & Journal in an email on April 16.

Construction of the station is projected to be completed by Aug. 12, 2021. That's an adjustment from July 21, 2021 that consulting engineers for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation had announced in early February.

The delay is due not to the COVID-19 restrictions but instead the result of "construction phasing," PennDOT spokeswoman Alexis Campbell told the Press & Journal on April 21.

In addition, while all other on-site work had been shut down by PennDOT due to COVID-19 related restrictions, there are "non-site work activities" that are proceeding, Campbell said.

These include contractors ordering materials and arranging scheduling and coordination in anticipation of the start of on-site construction, Campbell said.

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PennDOT on March 16 issued a limited notice to proceed, allowing the contractors to begin work that does not involve being on-site so long as the COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

On Feb. 26, PennDOT awarded a \$16.2 million contract to Wickersham Construction and Engineering Inc. of Lancaster as general contractor to build the station. The firm had submitted the lowest of three bids received.

PennDOT also awarded a \$1.6 million contract to Lobar Inc. of Dillsburg, which submitted the lowest of two bids received for the electrical contract.

PennDOT has budgeted \$32 million for the station. The project includes extending West Emaus Street through Wood Street to West Main, and improvements to make it safer and easier for pedestrians to cross West Main Street near the new station.

source: www.pressandjournal.com