



Lehigh Valley Transportation Study

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PennDOT Releases 12-year Plan to Spend \$400 Million on I-78

PennDOT Wednesday released a 12-year interstate renewal plan that includes nearly \$400 million being pumped into Interstate-78.

The \$10 billion statewide plan allocated money for several Lehigh Valley projects, the lion's share of it going along I-78 between Route 100 and the Berks County line.

The plan calls for:

- \$336 million to be spent between Route 100 and the Berks County line to reconstruct the roadway, add truck climbing lanes and to construct a new interchange at Adams Road. Most of that money isn't slated to be spent until between 2027 and 2032.
- \$20.5 million to repair I-78 from Easton Road to Route 33, for patching, road surface repairs and drainage improvements. The work is scheduled to be complete by 2024.
- \$20.8 million to be spent along I-78 between Lehigh Street and the Route 309 Interchange. The work is scheduled to be completed in 2025.
- \$10.3 million to repair rough roadway along eastbound I-78, from Route 309 to just west of the Route 412 Interchange in Bethlehem. Most of the work is to be completed by 2022.
- \$7.75 million to repair rough roadway along I-78, from Cedar Crest Boulevard to Lehigh Street. Most of the work is to be done by 2022.

The money is part of the state's renewed emphasis on repairing the interstate system across the Commonwealth. State officials announced in July that regional transportation budgets were being altered to allow more money to be funneled into Pennsylvania's 2,700 miles of deteriorating interstate highways. It meant a reduction in money for local road and bridge projects – 26% less for the Lehigh Valley's Transportation Improvement Program – but more money for those areas that had interstates.

Lehigh Valley officials found out last week the region would be the benefit of some of those interstate funds when Sen. Pat Browne, R-Lehigh County, announced roughly \$400 million in interstate money would be spent on I-78 over the next 12 years.

Pennsylvania is increasing interstate highway spending over the next eight years, until it reaches an annual allocation of \$1 billion a year for interstate maintenance.

