

Below is the weekly report for the week ending today, February 9, 2024.

Items for Newsletters:

1. **CSX Crossing Improvements (Road Closures):** CSX, DelDOT, and Public Works have been working to coordinate planned track improvement in the city that will result in multi-day road closures of North College Avenue, New London Road, and West Main Street. The work involves tie replacements at these three railroad crossings including paving improvements at the New London Ave/West Main Street railroad crossings adjacent to Deer Park. Historically, the tracks near Deer Park Tavern have been a site of incidents where vehicles have errantly turned on to the tracks and become trapped due to the abrupt grade change between the tracks and travel lanes. The planned work includes filling the area adjacent to the track with asphalt at New London Road and West Main Street, which will decrease the likelihood of a vehicle being trapped on the tracks requiring the assistance of Newark Police or AETNA to avoid a collision with an oncoming train. This is an improvement that has been long awaited and will significantly improve safety at this location. CSX will be running trains during the closures to maintain a required level of service, but the exact schedule is currently unknown. The referenced closures are weather dependent and are tentatively scheduled as follows:

North College Avenue – 3/3/2024 (3-4 day duration)

New London Road and West Main Street – 3/11/2024 (3-4 day duration)

This work will not be without some disruption to traffic due to the road closures and required pedestrian detours. The approved detour plans have been attached for your reference, and we are going to prepare more resident friendly maps for publication as we get closer to the planned work. We have been coordinating with the University regarding the impact on students during the North College Avenue closure specifically. Pedestrians will not be allowed to use the N. College Avenue crossing during the closure. It should be noted that there may be some pedestrians that are reluctant to follow the detour and instead take their chances crossing the tracks in other locations along the rail. We are working with the University to implement creative measures that will avoid this kind of risky pedestrian crossing to the maximum extent practicable.

2. **Temporary Refuse Service Delays:** Beginning Monday, February 12th, staff shortages will require a temporary adjustment to refuse collection that will result in delayed collections and limited bulk collections until February 26th. To maintain a reasonable level of service during this time, we will have the available crew members work later into the day during the work week and on weekends to make sure refuse carts are collected. We anticipate being back to normal operations on or around the week of February 26th and appreciate our residents' patience and cooperation during this time.
3. **Affordable Housing Public Meetings:** The Planning and Development Department has scheduled three "Coffee Break" virtual public meetings to discuss affordable housing and Inclusionary Zoning with residents. The dates and times are:

- a. Tuesday, February 13 at 10 AM
- b. Thursday, February 15 at 2 PM
- c. Friday, February 23 at 11 AM

Additional events – both virtual and in-person – will also be scheduled in the coming weeks.

4. **Free Water for a Year initiative**: We have selected our second winner! There are 2 more chances to win \$1000 worth of free water for anyone who completes a survey before June 2024. Newark Water customers are encouraged to complete the online survey at this link: <https://newarkde.gov/lead> to enter a sweepstakes for free water for a year, up to \$1000 value! The data we collect will help complete a required inventory of service lines and reduce operating costs for the water utility.
5. **Yard Waste Collection – Winter Schedule**: City-wide Yard Waste Collection will be available by appointment only until March 2024. Residents may call Public Works to schedule a yard waste collection during this period. Pickups will be scheduled for Wednesdays during weeks without a City Holiday.
6. **City newsletter**: To sign up for the City's email newsletter, [click here](#).

Police

1. Newark PD have extended several conditional offers of hire including one Communications Officer position and seven Police Officer positions. The Communications Officer will begin training in March and the seven police recruits will attend the Delaware State Police Academy beginning on March 17th.
2. On February 4, 2024, Chief Farrall, Det. Paige Klein, Cpl. Corey Spencer and Officer Kevin Connor represented Newark Police Department with the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge. The event was very well attended with the highest attendance on record.
3. On February 5, 2024, the University of Delaware spring semester started. Newark PD has increased their visibility in the student housing areas and downtown business district to ensure compliance with quality-of-life issues.
4. On February 7, 2024, Sgt. James Skinner was recognized as the Fusion Foundation Officer of the Month. Sgt. Skinner was nominated for his community engagement work during 2023. On behalf of the Fusion Foundation, Sgt. Skinner chose the Newark PAL as the recipient of a \$1,000 donation.
5. On February 8, 2024, the Traffic Unit deployed the two additional speed warning devices purchased as part of the approved 2024 budget, one on Casho Mill Road and one on West Chestnut Hill Road. The new devices have the ability to monitor and record vehicle speeds as well as flash red and blue warning lights to motorists exceeding the speed limit as well as displaying messages including "Too Fast" and "Slow Down". The devices are designed to grab

the attention of motorists to encourage appropriate driving behavior. These devices will be moved periodically throughout the city.

Planning and Development

1. Land Use

- a. Staff met with representatives from Sussex County on February 7 and New Castle County on February 9 regarding their inclusionary zoning ordinances and other housing/zoning reforms that their jurisdictions have implemented. The Planning and Development Department also has scheduled three “Coffee Break” virtual public meetings to discuss affordable housing and Inclusionary Zoning with residents. The dates and times are Tuesday, February 13 at 10 AM; Thursday, February 15 at 2 PM; and Friday, February 23 at 11 AM. Additional events – both virtual and in-person – will also be scheduled in the coming weeks. Staff has worked with the Chief Communications Officer to help publicize this effort. The flyer for this event with hyperlinks is attached.
- b. Staff also met with representatives from the Office of Marijuana Control, New Castle County and the City of Wilmington on February 2 to learn more about the state implementation of the upcoming facilities licensing for adult use marijuana. The topic of marijuana-related establishments has been scheduled for discussion and initial Council feedback on the March 11 agenda with an eye toward adoption of a final ordinance by the end of the summer.
- c. Staff issued the Subdivision Advisory Committee comment letter for the Comprehensive Development Plan amendment, rezoning and major subdivision with site plan approval for the proposed five-story mixed use building located at [339, 341 & 349 East Main Street](#) on February 5
- d. Planning Commission met on February 6. They approved continuing the current construction for The Grove past their five-year expiration and recommended adoption of the staff recommended changes for Chapter 27 related to the requirements for developers to pay for utility infrastructure updates and updated water and wastewater standards. The Commission members also discussed the progress on the inclusionary zoning ordinance, which included a request to look into a potential joint meeting with Council on affordable housing in general.
- e. The Conservation Advisory Commission has added an item to their February 13 agenda regarding a discussion on what role CAC wants in the development process. Director Bensley will be attending the meeting to provide information and feedback.
- f. The Division has posted the [vacant Planner I position](#) with a closing date of March 8.

2. Code Enforcement

- a. Significant permits issued this week are:
 1. 220 South Main Street – City Hall roof replacement.
 2. 1 North Twin Lakes Boulevard – 24 permits for single family dwellings (apartment style townhouses).
 3. 511 Grove Lane – Construct 9,684 sf restaurant building (associated footing and foundation permit previously issued).
 4. 501 Grove Lane – Tenant fit out – Del Pez Mexican Gastropub
 5. 500 Grove Lane - Construct 4035 s.f. restaurant building (associated footing and foundation permit previously issued).
 6. 800 Creek View Road, suite 105 – tenant fit out – Student Media Group.

- b. Two new properties will be receiving nuisance property warnings this week – West Knoll Apartments and 230 Kells Avenue
 - c. Three new employees started this week – Rob Wooten and Marty LaRue as Code Enforcement Officers and Mark Scrocca as Property Maintenance Inspector. The Division has also received notice of a retirement effective March 1, so that impending vacancy will be posted next week.
- 3. Parking
 - a. Vehicle 1103 is now having both electrical issues with the vehicle itself and issues with the LPR. Staff is working to get the vehicle issues covered under the warranty, but they may be related to the LPR installation, so that would be an aftermarket adjustment that is not covered. The LPR is under warranty, so issues should be covered. However, this type of LPR will be end of life and no longer serviced after November 2025, so staff is looking at the appropriate timeframe to budget for a capital project to replace the two oldest LPR units.
 - b. Director Bensley and Parking management met with NPD and Galleria management regarding the number of property checks NPD has had at that location. Galleria management stated they would look into private security options.
 - c. The Division has posted the [vacant FT Parking Ambassador position](#) with a closing date of March 8 and the [PT Parking Ambassador position](#) as open until filled.

Finance

- 1. The City is approaching launch of a new tool that will help our customers save money through conserving their electricity. This page will also link our customers directly with Efficiency Smart and Energize Delaware. In addition, this page contains a bill analysis page, and will also show the impact of owning an electric vehicle. Plan is to have this page embedded on the City's home page. For a sneak peak, click on the link: [Saving Tips \(apogee.net\)](http://Saving Tips (apogee.net))
- 2. Our auditors from CliftonLarsenAllen were in the office this week continuing their fieldwork for the annual audit. Expected audit completion date is June 15th.

Electric

- 1. During the current week, notable advancement has been achieved concerning the installation of two dual-port Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in the Police parking lot. The installation of underground conduits required to support these charging stations has been completed. It is planned that the concrete foundations for the charging stations will be poured this week with the assistance of PWWR. Furthermore, we have installed a conduit to support installation of the final remaining streetlight in the City Hall parking lot.
- 2. To ensure the smooth operation of our system, we conducted an outage on the Unit 74 transformer at the Chestnut Hill substation. The purpose of this outage was to test the transformer and the breakers. The testing was completed, and we plan to bring the transformer back online by Friday the 9th.

3. The Line Crew also made significant progress this week at the Grove and Creek View Road. They pulled the primary cable to feed building A at the Grove and the primary cable for the new restaurant building at the Creek View project.
4. On Friday, crews will begin installing a new street light at the intersection of Johnce Road and Register Drive, located in the Jenney's Run development.

Parks and Recreation

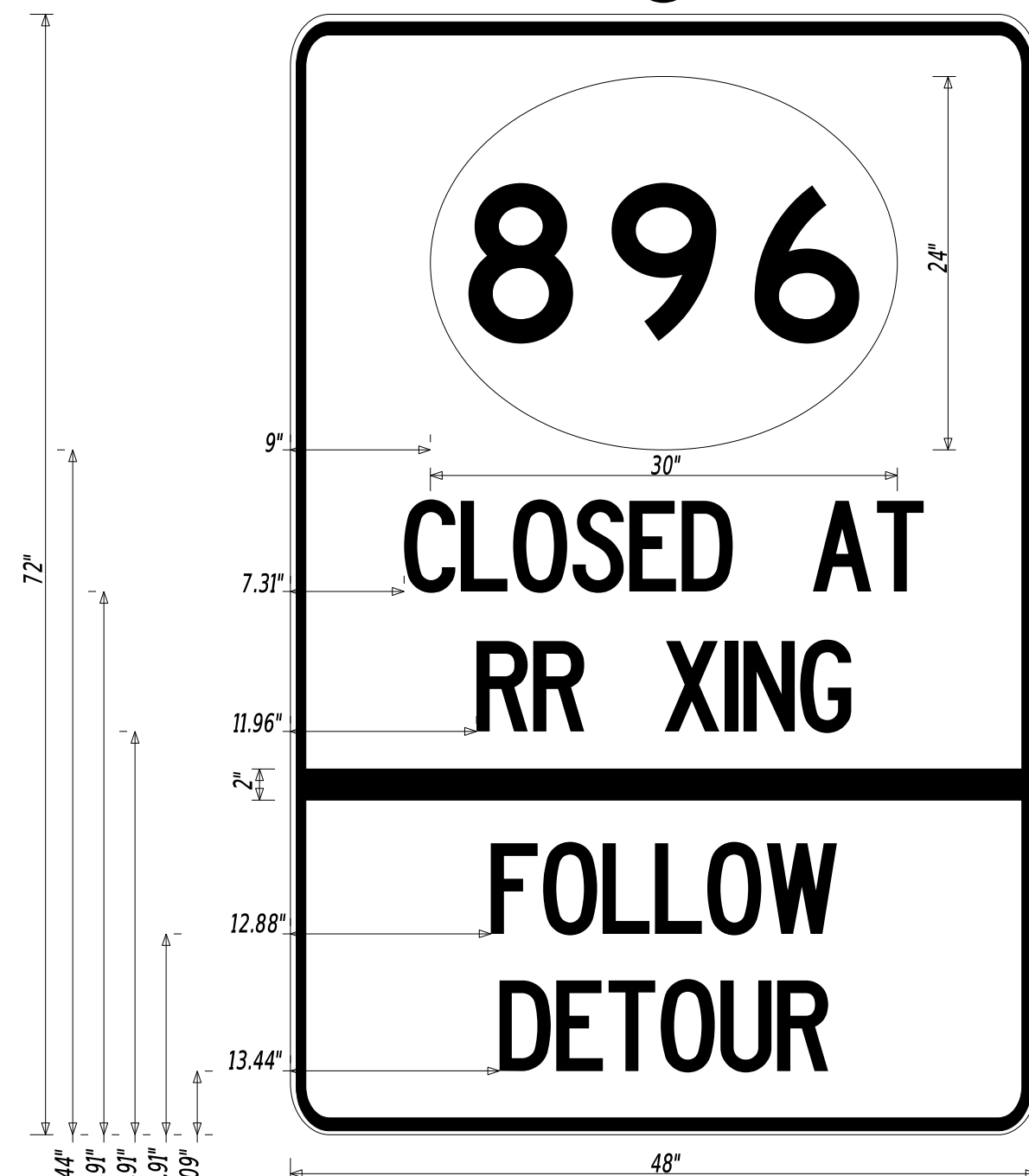
1. Parks recreation staff are working with the University of Delaware to incorporate free swim lessons as part of Camp R.E.A.L this summer that will be held at Alder Creek and Dickey Park. They also continued work to prepare for summer activities, programs, and development of the summer camp guide.
2. Parks maintenance staff continue to clear fallen trees along the Redd Park and Christina Valley Stream trails as well as scheduling removal of creek blockages with our tree contractor.
3. We received two Outdoor Recreation Parks and Trail (ORPT) Grants for the 2023 funding cycle. One grant in the amount of \$45,000 for the George Read Park Walking/Jogging Trail and the second for the Dickey Park pavilion replacement for \$35,000. The grant requires a 50% matching that is provided in the 2024 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget.

PRIOR TO DETOUR
 DAYS PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF DETOUR)

SR 896 &
SR 273
RR XING

TO CLOSE
STARTING
XX/XX/XX

Y

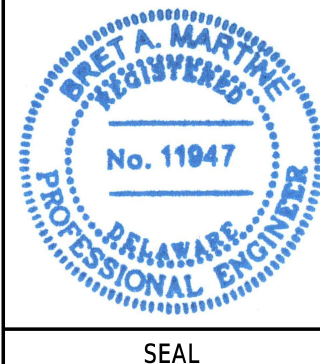


2.5" RADIUS, .625" BORDER, BLACK LEGEND WITH PRISMATIC
RETROREFLECTIVE FLUORESCENT ORANGE BACKGROUND;
"896" 10" D ON 30"X24" SHIELD;
"CLOSED AT" 6" C -26% SPACING;
"RR XING" 6" C -26% SPACING;
"FOLLOW" 6" C; "DETOUR" 6" C;

PREPARED BY
 CENTURY
ENGINEERING


THIS SEAL APPLIES TO THIS DETOUR SHEET.

05/20/2020
DATE



B. Adhikari

05/20/2020
DATE

"I CERTIFY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THAT THIS DETOUR PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DELAWARE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES."

ADDENDA / REVISIONS

NOT TO SCALE

**RAILROAD CROSSING REPLACEMENT
NEW LONDON RD (N313) & W MAIN STREET (N410)
DOT CROSSING NO. 140-729P & 140-730J**

CONTRACT
-
COUNTY
NEW CASTLE

PERMIT NO.	N313
DESIGNED BY:	D. SPENCE
CHECKED BY:	B. MARTINE

**VEHICULAR DETOUR PLAN
NEW LONDON RD
& W MAIN ST
AT RR CROSSING**

SECTION
CEI
SHEET NO.
1 OF 2

A

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
↑ M6-3

B

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
← M6-1(L)

C

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
→ M6-1(R)

D

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
↖ M6-2(L)

E

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
↗ M6-2(R)

F

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
↖ M5-1(L)

G

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
↗ M5-1(R)

H

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
↖ M5-2(L)

I

DETOUR M4-8
896 M1-5
↗ M5-2(R)

J

END
DETOUR M4-8a
896 M1-5

K

DETOUR
AHEAD W20-2

L

DETOUR
1000 FT W20-2

M

DETOUR
500 FT W20-2

N

ROAD
CLOSED
AHEAD W20-3

O

ROAD
CLOSED
1000 FT W20-3

P

ROAD
CLOSED
500 FT W20-3

Q

ROAD
CLOSED R11-2

R

DETOUR M4-10(L)

S

DETOUR M4-10(R)

T

ROAD CLOSED
XX MILES AHEAD
LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY R11-3a

U

BRIDGE OUT
XX MILES AHEAD
LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY R11-3b

V

ROAD CLOSED
TO
THRU TRAFFIC R11-4

W

X

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ARE TO BE SUPPLIED AND MAINTAINED BY THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND SHALL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PLAN AND THE DELAWARE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (DE MUTCD) LATEST EDITION.
2. SIGNS "N" THROUGH "Q" AND "T" AND "V", THE WORD "ROAD" SHALL BE CHANGED TO "RAMP", "RR XING" OR "BRIDGE" WHERE APPLICABLE.
3. "W" TYPE 3 BARRICADES AT A ROAD CLOSURE SHALL BE PLACED COMPLETELY ACROSS THE ROADWAY, FROM CURB TO CURB, OR FROM EDGE OF ROAD TO EDGE OF ROAD, WITH THE STRIPES POSITIONED DOWNWARD TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE ROADWAY.
4. BARRICADES SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 6 FEET WIDE UNLESS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

CONCURRENCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

TRAFFIC SAFETY

5/20/20

DATE

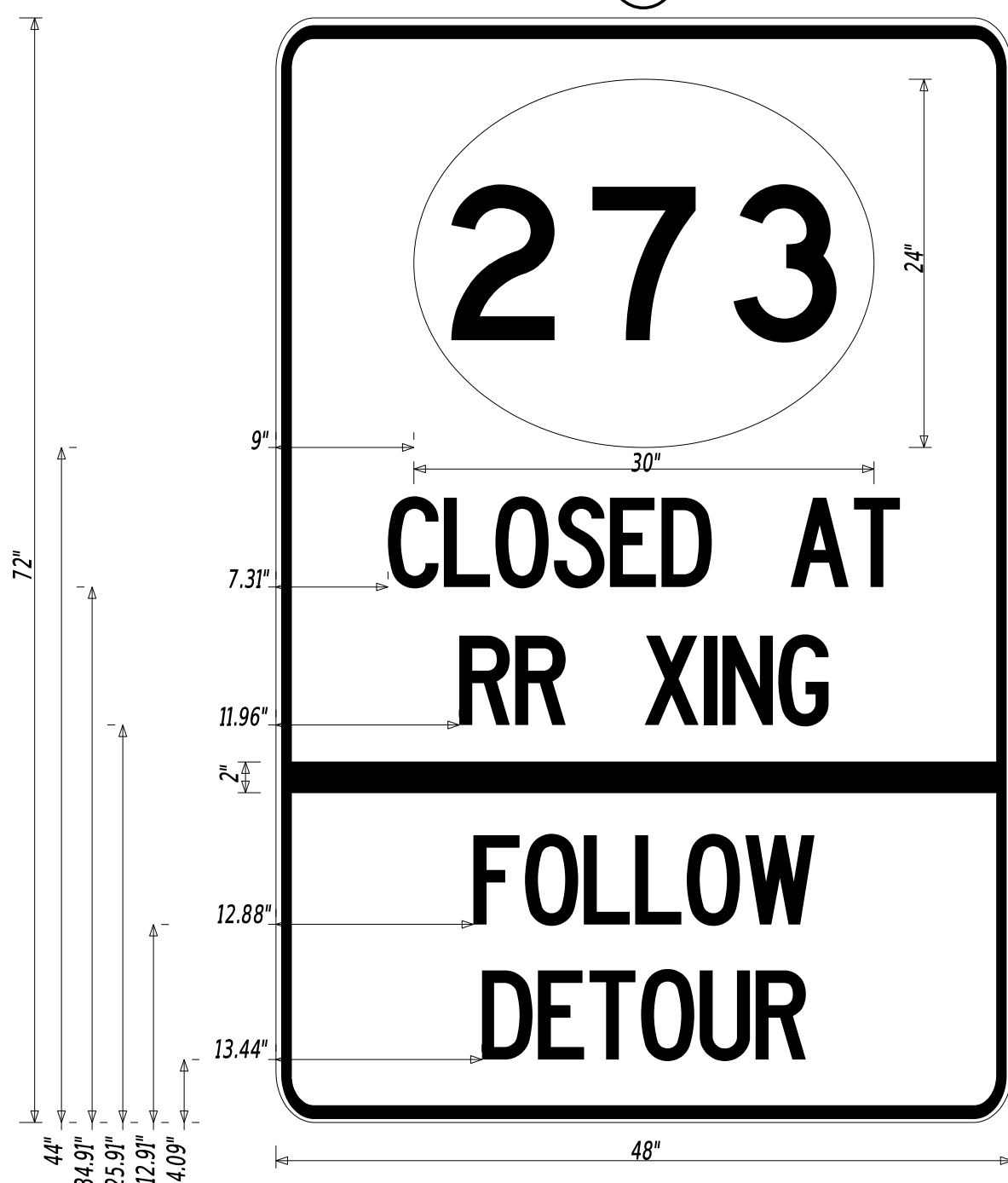
LAST REVISED: 9/11/2018
18-MAY-2020
14:14

PRIOR TO DETOUR
 DAYS PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF DETOUR)

SR 896 &
SR 273
RR XING

TO CLOSE
STARTING
XX/XX/XX

Y



2.5" RADIUS, .625" BORDER, BLACK LEGEND WITH PRISMATIC
RETROREFLECTIVE FLUORESCENT ORANGE BACKGROUND;
"273" 10" D ON 30"X24" SHIELD;
"CLOSED AT" 6" C -26% SPACING;
"RR XING" 6" C -26% SPACING;
"FOLLOW" 6" C; "DETOUR" 6" C;

PREPARED BY
 CENTURY
ENGINEERING


THIS SEAL APPLIES TO THIS DETOUR SHEET.

05/20/2020
DATE



B. All

05/20/2020
DATE

"I CERTIFY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THAT THIS DETOUR PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DELAWARE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES."

ADDENDA / REVISIONS

NOT TO SCALE

RAILROAD CROSSING REPLACEMENT
NEW LONDON RD (N313) & W MAIN STREET (N410)
DOT CROSSING NO. 140-729P & 140-730J

CONTRACT

PERMIT NO.	
------------	--

N1312 8 N1410

DESIGNED BY: D. SPENCE

CHECKED BY: B. MARTINE

**VEHICULAR DETOUR PLAN
NEW LONDON RD
& W MAIN ST
AT RR CROSSING**

SECTION

SHEET NO

2 OF 2

(A) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
↑
M6-3

(B) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
←
M6-1(L)

(C) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
→
M6-1(R)

(D) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
↖
M6-2(L)

(E) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
↗
M6-2(R)

(F) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
↙
M5-1(L)

(G) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
↘
M5-1(R)

(H) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
↘
M5-2(L)

(I) DETOUR
M4-8
MI-5
↗
M5-2(R)

(J) END
DETOUR
M4-8a
MI-5

(K) --
DETOUR
AHEAD
W20-2

(L) --
DETOUR
1000 FT
W20-2

(M) DETOUR
500 FT
W20-2

(N) ROAD
CLOSED
AHEAD
W20-3

(O) ROAD
CLOSED
1000 FT
W20-3

(P) ROAD
CLOSED
500 FT
W20-3

(Q) ROAD
CLOSED
R11-2

(R) ← DETOUR →
M4-10(L)

(S) DETOUR →
M4-10(R)

(T) ROAD CLOSED
XX MILES AHEAD
LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY
R11-3a

(U) BRIDGE OUT
XX MILES AHEAD
LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY
R11-3b

(V) ROAD CLOSED
TO
THRU TRAFFIC
R11-4

(W)

(X)

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ARE TO BE SUPPLIED AND MAINTAINED BY THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND SHALL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PLAN AND THE DELAWARE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (DE MUTCD) LATEST EDITION.
2. SIGNS "N" THROUGH "Q" AND "T" AND "V", THE WORD "ROAD" SHALL BE CHANGED TO "RAMP", "RR XING" OR "BRIDGE" WHERE APPLICABLE.
3. "W" TYPE 3 BARRICADES AT A ROAD CLOSURE SHALL BE PLACED COMPLETELY ACROSS THE ROADWAY, FROM CURB TO CURB, OR FROM EDGE OF ROAD TO EDGE OF ROAD, WITH THE STRIPES POSITIONED DOWNWARD TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE ROADWAY.
4. BARRICADES SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 6 FEET WIDE UNLESS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

CONCURRENCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

5/20/20

TRAFFIC SAFETY

DATE _____

PRIOR TO DETOUR
(PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF DETOUR)

NORTH
COLLEGE
RR XING

TO CLOSE
STARTING
XX/XX/XX

SPECIAL SIGNS

N College
Avenue
CLOSED AT
RR XING
FOLLOW
DETOUR

2.5" RADIUS; .625" BORDER, BLACK LEGEND WITH PRISMATIC
RETROREFLECTIVE FLUORESCENT ORANGE BACKGROUND;
"N College" 6" C - 26% SPACING;
"Avenue" 6" C;
"CLOSED AT" 6" C - 26% SPACING;
"RR XING" 6" C - 26% SPACING;
"FOLLOW" 6" C; "DETOUR" 6" C

PREPARED BY
 CENTURY
ENGINEERING

THIS SEAL APPLIES TO THIS DETOUR SHEET

05/20/2020

DATE _____

SEA

B. Hall 05/20/2020
QA/QC DATE

*I CERTIFY TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THAT THIS DETOUR PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DELAWARE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

ADDENDA / REVISIONS

NOT TO SCALE

RAILROAD CROSSING REPLACEMENT
N. COLLEGE AVENUE
DOT CROSSING NO. 140-728H

CONTRACT
T2015005
COUNTY
NEW CAST

ROAD NO.	
DESIGNER	
CHECKED	

TRAFFIC SAFETY

N311

VEHICULAR DETOUR PLAN
N COLLEGE AVE
AT RR CROSSING

DATE	
SECTION	
CEI	
SHEET NO.	

■ 363

A  M4-9-DE	B  M4-9	C  M4-9	D  M4-9	E  M4-9
F  M4-9	G  M4-9	H  M4-9	I  M4-9	J  M4-9a
K  W20-2	L  W20-2	M  W20-2	N  W20-3	O  W20-3
P  W20-3	Q  R21-2	R  M4-10(L)	S  M4-10(R)	
T  R21-3a	U  R21-3b	V  R21-4		
W 	X 	Y 	Z 	

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ARE TO BE SUPPLIED AND MAINTAINED BY THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND SHALL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PLAN AND THE DELAWARE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (DE MUTCD) LATEST EDITION.
2. SIGNS "W" THROUGH "Q" AND "T" AND "V", THE WORD "ROAD" SHALL BE CHANGED TO "RAMP," "AN RAMP" OR "BRIDGE" WHERE APPLICABLE.
3. "Y" TYPE BARRICADES AT A ROAD CLOSURE SHALL BE PLACED COMPLETELY ACROSS THE ROADWAY, FROM CURB TO CURB, OR FROM EDGE OF ROAD TO EDGE OF ROAD, WITH THE STRIPES POSITIONED DOWNWARD TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE ROADWAY.
4. BARRICADES SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 6 FEET WIDE UNLESS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

CONCURRENCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

5/20/20

LAST REVISED: 9/11/2018
18-MAY-2019
17:39
C:\Users\j\Documents\Projects\115613.00 (Cadd)\DOTS Open-Field\115613.14 (Plan 12, Railroad Design Service)\JAN Wic\Driver Maps\MapInfo\1617784_M_College Ave Detour.dgn

A B C

M4-9b-DE M4-9b-DE M4-9b-DE

D E F

M4-9b-DE M4-9b-DE M4-9b-DE1

SIDEWALK CLOSED

USE OTHER SIDE

R9-10
(H)



SIDEWALK CLOSED
AHEAD
CROSS HERE

R9-11(R)
J



SIDEWALK CLOSED

CROSS HERE

R9-11a(R)

(L)

R9-9(MOD)

**CROSSWALK
CLOSED
AHEAD**

R9-9(MOD)

(0)

R9-9(MOD)



1. ALL TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES ARE TO BE SUPPLIED AND MAINTAINED BY THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND SHALL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PLAN AND THE DELAWARE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (DE MUTCD) LATEST EDITION.
2. BARRICADES SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 4 FEET WIDE UNLESS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

CONCURRENCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

2/5/2024

SECTION
CEN
SHEET NO.
1

LAST REVISED: 9/11/2018
2-FEB-2024
08:25
G:\Projects\115013.00 (Del

S. COLLEGE AVE

**RAILROAD CROSSING REPLACEMENT
N. COLLEGE AVENUE (N311)
CROSSING NO. 140-728H**

ROAD NO.	
DESIGNED BY:	D.SPENCE
CHECKED BY:	B.MARTINE

TRAFFIC SAFETY