

# Stop 5 Years Of Gridlock

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A NJ Congressman, PA & NJ State Senators, PA Representatives, NJ Assemblymen, AND Warren County Freeholders have written letters representing our concerns. We have time to stop it, with your help.

## FACTS:

- NJDOT has no plan to study and quantify Community Impact – residential safety, highway safety, traffic, lifestyle, economic, and damage to infrastructure.
- NJDOT refuses to provide the data used to support their weak claim of 11 rockfall events over a 17-year period.
- In 2011, the highway width limit was identified by a NJDOT Geotechnical Engineer, as a reason large scale rock removal was NOT feasible. THIS HAS BEEN IGNORED!
- NJDOT has not shown good faith. We have the evidence of confusing, conflicting and contradicting data; not following through with promises; ignoring requests to meet; claiming they offered to meet; then saying they are no longer meeting with stakeholders.
- NJDOT wants us to believe their plan of narrowing lanes and reducing shoulders to 1', to create a 15' work zone, will keep traffic flowing and will not create additional safety issues. THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE!

- LEHIGH VALLEY – COMING YOUR WAY! – The NJDOT says: “Regionally, advanced warning signs and notices will be utilized to inform pass-through car and truck traffic so they may consider using other routes well before the project. The use of Smart Work Zone technology will help monitor real-time traffic data and adjust to meet the actual demands in the work zone”.

- Using NJDOT provided plan specs, two tractor trailers, side by side, WILL NOT fit in the S-Curve during construction. We show this using AutoCAD, engineering software. The NJDOT solution - restrict trucks to the outside lane both east and westbound, relying on driver compliance. INSANE!

This section had 80 accidents in 2016, unrelated to rockfall, without shrinking the lanes or shoulders. The residential, pedestrian, small business, tourist towns along Route 611, and near the Columbia – Portland Bridge, get crushed often with highway traffic due to these accidents in the gap. The S-Curve, built in 1953, has a “design deficient” -shoulder width, curve radius and sight distance!

Increase the 80 accidents by 18%, which is New Jersey’s work-zone accident rate. This project would start with 95 accidents per year, 2 accidents per week. Imagine this with a narrower S-Curve and the distraction of this destruction/construction zone, feet from our vehicles..... for 5 years!

When these accidents happened now, the gridlock epicenters are the residential, pedestrian, and tourist villages of Columbia, Portland, and The Delaware Water Gap. Expect to feel impacts of this project from far and wide as drivers avoid the whole area. - Everyone will be affected or know people who are - residents, commuters, visitors, and the Pocono Tourism Industry. The Appalachian Trail crosses Rout 611 in the quiet, historic village of Delaware Water Gap. Thru hikers will need a light!

Many are working behind the scenes to get NJDOT to responsibly study the community impacts and ALL alternatives. Our coalition is building and educating our team. We are preparing for the upcoming PUBLIC HEARING.

For the evidence and how to help, visit us on Facebook: I80DWGCoalition. Read and sign our petition to get email updates. <https://www.change.org/Stop-The-I80-Rockfall-Gridlock-Plan>

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## Scholarship Achievement Award 2020 Are Available

By Michael Ortoski

SLATE BELT - The Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce applications for Scholarship Achievement Award 2020 are available March 1st at the guidance departments of Bangor High School, Pen Argyl High School, Faith Christian & Career Institute of Technology.

The Slate Belt Chamber of Commerce will award one scholarship to a senior from each of the four area schools: Bangor, Pen Argyl, Faith Christian & Career Institute of Technology. Applicants must reside in the Slate Belt to apply.

The scholarships will be presented to the students based upon the following criteria; academic accomplishment, demonstrated service to school and/or community, demonstration of leadership capabilities and future vocational plans.

Please note: A separate award, The Frederick R. Curcio, Jr. Scholarship Award, may also be applied for at this time. To qualify a senior must be enrolled in a computer science related course or planning to attend a Technical School of their choice or majoring in computer science.

Applications must be received by April 12, 2020. To honor the recipients, parents and friends, a Scholarship Awards Dinner is planned for May 14th at Tuscarora Inn. For more information contact the guidance department or the chamber office at 610.588.1000.



**February 23**

Portland Fire Co  
Starts 7pm

**February 24**

Bushkill Twp Fire Co  
Doors 5pm  
Starts 7pm

**February 21**

Wind Gap Fire Co  
Doors 5pm; Starts  
6:45pm

**February 23**

Immaculate  
Conception  
Doors 11am;  
Starts 1pm

**February 20**

Kunkletown Fire Co  
Progressive  
Jackpot - 7pm

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