PRT Board Approves Bus Rapid Transit Phase One Construction Contract, Service Changes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (March 24, 2023) - Pittsburgh Regional Transit's Board approved a $28 million contract to construct the first phase of the Downtown-Uptown-Oakland Bus Rapid Transit project, the agency announced today.

Independence Excavating, Inc. will begin construction this fall along Fifth, Liberty, and Sixth avenues in downtown Pittsburgh. Phase one includes the installation of five new bus stations in downtown Pittsburgh, transit-exclusive traffic lanes, intersection improvements, new accessible ramps, among other improvements.

"I want to thank everyone who has helped us achieve this milestone," said PRT CEO Katharine Kelleman. "This project has taken years to coordinate, plan, and engineer, and I'm honored to help usher the project to this key stage."

The $291 million Downtown-Uptown-Oakland BRT project will provide more reliable, convenient, and faster service with improved amenities and transit connections. The project is being paid for with federal, state, county, and PRT funding.

PRT expects to advertise bids for the second phase of the project, which would extend from the edge of downtown through Uptown and into Oakland, this fall, with construction on the second phase beginning in 2024.

The Board on Friday also approved service changes to bus routes 61D, 71A, 71C, and 71D, which are expected to be implemented this fall. Proposed changes to the P3 bus route were deferred.

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