

NEWS *from Middletown, Pa.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Downtown project enters final stage

Middletown's \$1.6 million downtown infrastructure project will move into its final stage Wednesday when work shifts to the block of Union Street between Emaus and Spring streets.

Crews will close the intersection of Spring and Union streets at 7 a.m. Wednesday to facilitate the start of work on that section. Union Street between Emaus and Brown streets reopened Tuesday afternoon.

With the reopening of that section, all of Union Street between Emaus and Ann streets is now open to traffic, with on street parking once again available for businesses in that area. Customers of businesses along the Spring to Emaus section of Union Street are reminded free parking is available in the municipal lot at the rear of Borough Hall, near the intersection of Catherine and Brown streets. That lot is located less than two blocks from the businesses located on that stretch of Union.

Work on the section between Emaus and Spring streets is expected to be completed by no later than November 1. Thus far, the Borough's engineers report the project is on schedule and tracking to come in under budget.

The infrastructure project involves replacing the 100-plus years old sanitary sewer main under South Union Street and installing new water mains. In the process, crews have also been detecting, and mitigating, improper connections to the sanitary sewer system which contribute to the Borough's significant inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems.

The completion of the infrastructure improvements will set the stage for the Borough's downtown streetscape enhancement project, which will be done next year. That project is currently in the final design phase and is expected to go to bid later this year.