

# high speed interchange (sr 6026)

<b>Location:</b>	College Township, Spring Township, District 2-0
<b>Completion Date:</b>	11.25.2002
<b>Construction Cost:</b>	\$83,400,000
<b>MPMS #:</b>	
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Christopher Sokol, PE 814.765.0437   cskol@state.pa.us
<b>Themes:</b>	Develop local governments as strong land use partners
<b>Project Overview:</b>	<p>This project is a 2.5-mile section of the Route 26/I-99 Corridor, a new expressway designed to interstate standards that ties into an existing limited access interchange between US Route 322 and Park Avenue. This section includes a new three-tiered interchange that is the centerpiece of the project, providing access to the Pennsylvania State University's sports complex, Innovation Park, and main campus, as well as to Centre Community Hospital and other destinations in and around State College. Large volumes of traffic that use this interchange during special events needed to be managed. Utility relocations and other construction activities had to be carefully planned and coordinated with a number of diverse project stakeholders.</p> <p>A large number of meetings were coordinated, attended, and responded to by the design team through all project phases to address community concerns including over 50 meetings with the public and local agencies, over 30 status meetings with PennDOT, and additional meetings with representatives of Penn State University, Centre Community Hospital, the water quality task force, the Governor's Conference security team, and other project stakeholders. The efforts of the project team to elicit feedback and respond with context sensitive design was a key to meeting schedule milestones and ultimately opening the project a week ahead of schedule.</p> <p>A water quality task force was established to address concerns associated with the Spring Creek watershed (a nationally-known trout fishery) and aquifers in the project area, which are an important supply of local drinking water. Pre-existing plans to expand Penn State's Innovation Park and provide a direct connection to University Park Airport were also addressed in the design. At the time it was bid, SR 6026, Section C02 represented the single largest construction contract awarded by PennDOT. Approximately \$12 million was invested in environmental mitigation features for the project. All these considerations contributed to warm acceptance by the community.</p>
<b>Lessons Learned:</b>	Close coordination with stakeholders is essential in discovering specific needs and subsequently translating them into the design details, costs, and specifications necessary to bid the project. Involving local stakeholders in the construction stage is very useful in ensuring that expectations developed in the design stage are met.
<b>Awards:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2003 Pennsylvania Partnership for Highway Quality (PPHQ) Design Award</li><li>• 2003 ARTBA Globe Award of Environmental Excellence</li></ul>

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