



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 18, 2017**

## **Route 743 “Park Avenue” Bridge Reopened to Traffic in Hershey**

**- Additional work still needed to finish the bridge project. -**

**Harrisburg, PA** – The bridge that carries Route 743 over Spring Creek in Derry Township, Dauphin County, reopened to traffic at around 1 PM this afternoon. This area is also referred to as Hershey. The crossing, which is located just north of ZooAmerica and next to Hersheypark, had been closed since February 19 for a bridge superstructure replacement project. This portion of Route 743 is also known locally as Park Avenue.

PennDOT advises travelers that though the bridge has reopened to traffic, the project is not yet finished. Construction crews will apply an epoxy overlay to the bridge deck when warmer weather temperatures become prevalent. The overlay operation will require single-lane traffic restrictions for a few days, with flaggers assisting motorists through the work zone. PennDOT will announce in advance when this work will take place. Other work items remaining includes final line painting, the installation of fencing, seeding the ground that has been disturbed, and general cleanup.

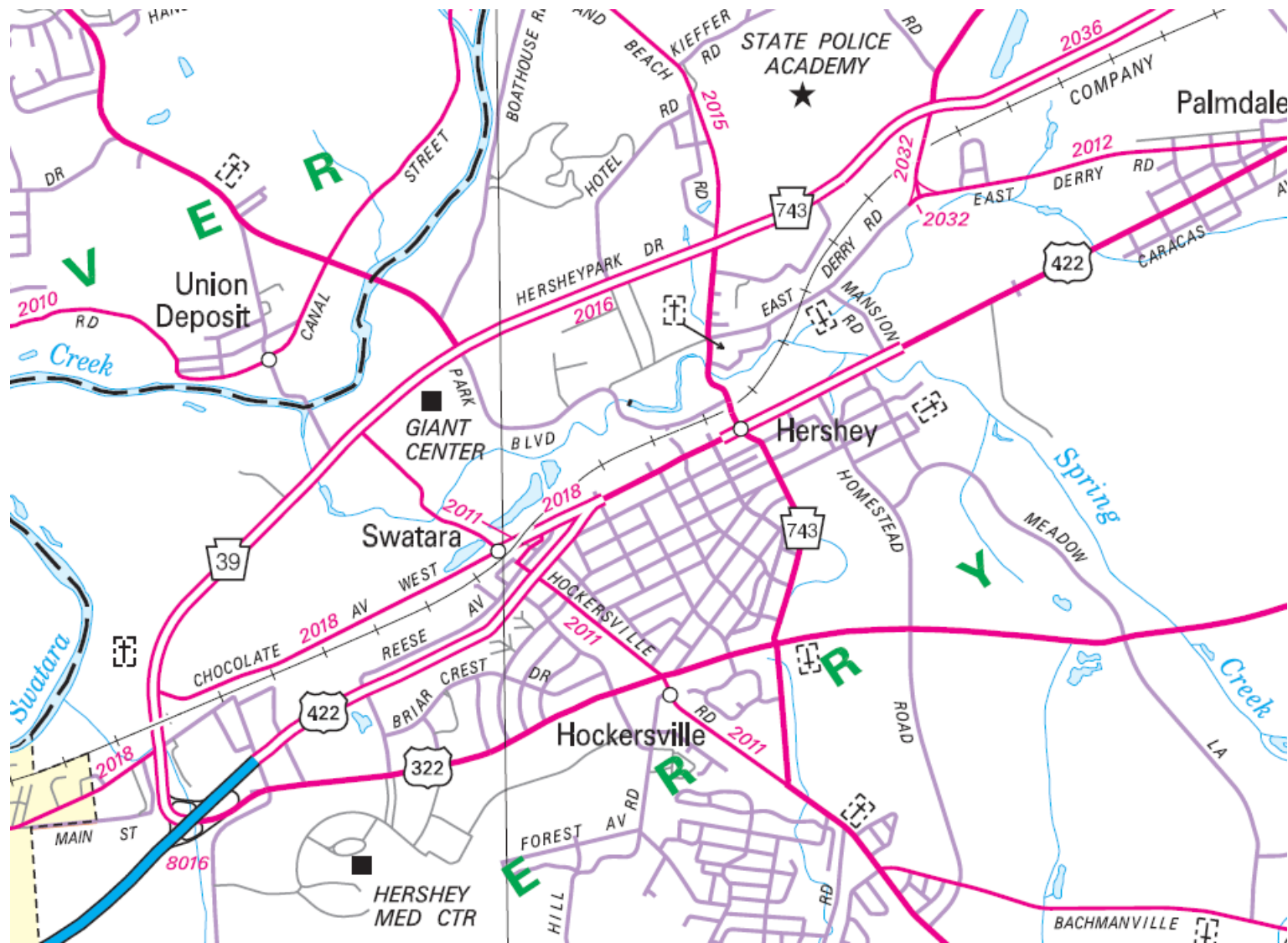
PennDOT has contracted with J.D. Eckman, Inc. of Atglen, Pennsylvania, to replace the superstructure of the former bridge at a cost of \$2,995,254. The work has included significant utility relocation, demolition and replacement of the former two-span concrete T-beam superstructure with a single-span steel plate girder bridge supported by integral abutments. Also included has been the installation of sidewalk curb cuts that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The former bridge was built in 1921. Due to deterioration over the years, it was classified as structurally deficient (SD). The new superstructure now removes this bridge from PennDOT's list of SD bridges.

Motorists can check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles by visiting [www.511PA.com](http://www.511PA.com). 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 770 traffic cameras, 94 of which are in south central Pennsylvania.

511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

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