



[Reviving I-95](#)

[Project Areas](#)

[Neighborhood Improvements](#)

[News](#)

[Get More Info](#)

[Get Involved](#)

Neighborhood Improvements



Take a look at what we're doing to improve your neighborhood....

Neighborhood improvements can enhance community life and provide stewardship for local environmental resources. They include:

- Improved waterfront access (safer pedestrian crossings, more trees, and brighter, energy efficient lighting)
- Wide sidewalks and pedestrian trails (both across and along the underside of highway)
- Bicycle lanes and trails (to expand transportation options)
- *Green* storm water management (that absorbs rain water instead of piping it into the river)
- Sound walls (in places where neighbors vote to install them)
- New *green* and recreational spaces (putting land under and next to I-95 to productive and attractive use)
- Opportunities for public art (on new retaining walls and along connector streets that link neighborhoods to the waterfront)



[Overview](#)

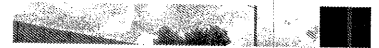
[Sustainable Action Committee](#)

[View Improvements](#)

[Community Groups](#)

[Topics of Interest](#)

The full list of potential *neighborhood improvements* appears below, with the latest information on their status as either Approved Improvements, or Improvements Under Consideration. Approved Improvements have been incorporated into final designs for project sections, are already under construction, or are complete. Improvements Under Consideration are proposed improvements that have been shared conceptually with the public, but are not yet fully developed. These improvements may change in scope, size and location as designs are finalized and go to construction. Remember that anything not yet fully designed or under construction is an opportunity for continued public input. Check back frequently for opportunities to participate in the process. Details of each of the approved or proposed improvements are below.



Approved

GIR: Public Spaces Adjacent to the Highway Structure

Retaining walls and open space adjacent to I-95 will be designed to minimize the visual impact of the highway and create small new public spaces.

GIR: Penn Treaty Park Gateway

This initiative will enhance the connection to the Penn Treaty Park with lighting, landscaping, public art and parking improvements.

GIR: Sound Walls

Near neighbors within a defined distance of the highway have voted to construct sound walls adjacent to homes, schools, and parks, and the first walls have already been constructed between Frankford and Columbia avenues.

CPR: Lighting

The underpasses of the seven bridges being reconstructed will get new lighting. Developed in cooperation with Philadelphia's Department of Streets, they include LED (Light Emitting Diode) fixtures mounted to cast brighter, more consistent quality of light for vehicles and pedestrians.

CPR: Open Space

PennDOT and the Sustainable Action Committee will work with the community to develop sustainable improvements to the open parcels in the Cottman-Princeton Interchange Project.

CPR: Landscaping

During the Cottman-Princeton Interchange Project, PennDOT will undertake a variety of landscaping plantings to beautify the community. These will include trees along Princeton Avenue, as well as grass and shrubs to aid stormwater management.

GIR: Underpasses

The I-95 underpasses at Shackamaxon Street, Marlborough Street and Columbia Avenue will be replaced with longer underpasses which will accommodate wider shoulders and other safety improvements on the highway above.

GIR: Delaware Avenue Streetscape

Rebuilding Delaware Avenue from Columbia Avenue to Aramingo Avenue in the Girard Avenue Interchange project area will make the road safer and more accessible for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

GIR: Richmond Street Streetscape - North of Girard

The redevelopment of Richmond Street as it runs north of Girard Avenue -- which carries cars, as well as the SEPTA Route 15 Trolley -- includes innovative tree plantings, energy-efficient lighting and bike lanes.

GIR: Conrail Bridges

The Girard Interchange Project will replace the existing Conrail bridge over Richmond Street with four smaller structures with new lighting under the bridges and redesigned sidewalks.

GIR: Conrail Retaining Wall

The retaining wall that separates the Conrail yard from Richmond Street between Sergeant and Somerset Streets is designed to be softer and more aesthetic and include unobtrusive fencing for safety.

Under Consideration

BRI: Juniata Triangle

Click above to read more about how we will be using and transforming this vacant plot of land.

GIR: Public Spaces Below the Highway Structure

New public spaces are being created under I-95 to serve community needs.

GIR: Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail

The reconstruction of the Girard Avenue Interchange will open up spaces beneath the structure that are currently inaccessible and make new connections between River Ward neighborhoods and the Delaware waterfront possible.

AFC: Monkiewicz Playground

There is an opportunity to connect the open space areas of the Monkiewicz Playground by placing I-95 on an elevated structure (viaduct). The Project Team will work with the community to explore the options to enhance park activity using this area underneath the highway. Options for the new space are further explored by following the link (above).

GIR: Cultural Interpretation and Public Art

During the Girard Avenue Interchange Project, an effort is being made to document and protect archaeological finds and work with the community to preserve its cultural resources, create open spaces and promote public art. (



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Neighborhood Improvements

News

Get More Info

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