

Entrance to train station to reopen before Thanksgiving

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The McGovern Avenue entrance to the Amtrak station will be reopened no later than the end of the day Monday, in time for the Thanksgiving rush, a PennDOT spokesman said.

"They were paving yesterday and still today," Greg Penny, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, said Wednesday. "Traffic, line painting and installation of a barrier are still to be done."

The entrance has been closed during construction of the new Lititz Pike bridge, forcing all traffic into and out of the station to use the traffic signal at McGovern Avenue and North Queen Street.

That has caused backups, and the reopening of the McGovern Avenue entrance will ease stress on families traveling for Thanksgiving, said Terry Kauffman, chairman of the Lancaster County Transportation Committee.

The push has been on since the October meeting of the Lancaster Train Station Advisory Committee for a solution, given that 3,000 or more additional passengers are expected at the station over the Thanksgiving holiday.

In a typical week, the station sees about 10,300 passengers, compared to the 13,900, or 35 percent more, who used the station during "Thanksgiving week" last year, according to Amtrak spokesman Craig Shulz. Amtrak considers "Thanksgiving week" to be the Tuesday before the holiday to the Monday after, Shulz said.

source: LancasterOnline.com