

## **Turnpike / Mon/Fayette Expressway, Overview**

The Mon/Fayette Expressway (MFE) system consists of four independent but interconnected projects between I-68 near Morgantown, WV and I-376 in Monroeville, PA. Today, the MFE is completed and open to traffic from I-68 in WV to PA Route 51 in Jefferson Hills Borough in southeastern Allegheny County creating 54 continuous miles of expressway. Combined with the Southern Beltway Project, these two major Commission initiatives will fill major missing pieces of the regional Pittsburgh limited access transportation system.

### **Mon/Fayette Expressway: PA Route 51 to I-376**

The remaining Mon Fayette sections will extend the current MFE system 14 miles north, from PA Route 51 in Jefferson Hills to the Interstate 376, near Thompson Run Road in Monroeville. This will complete the 68-mile MFE system allowing continuous travel from West Virginia north to Pittsburgh. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was approved in December 2004 and final design began shortly thereafter.

Funding availability for the PA Route 51 to I-376 Project required it to be divided into two sections divided by the Monongahela River; the south section is estimated to cost over \$1.1 Billion and the north section is estimated at over \$1 Billion including the new river bridge. The southern section is actively in design with construction anticipated to begin in 2022. It will consist of 3 full and one partial interchange and is anticipated to open in Fall 2027. The northern section design is currently suspended until the southern section design is completed.

The MFE system provides much needed access to the Mon Valley areas and provides a faster and safer travel option for traffic; particularly commercial vehicles that once used the existing arteries such as PA Route 51, 88 and 837 as well as U.S. Routes 119 and I-70.

The PA Route 51 to I-376 Project will also encourage redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites, encourage revitalization of neighborhoods and relieve local traffic congestion on roadways in the southern and eastern portions of Allegheny County. The completion of the project will also complement the regional transportation network.

The projects is funded through Act 89 of 2013, which allocated state Oil Franchise Tax money to the PTC's Independently Funded Program, no federal funds are included.

### **MFE Rt 51 to I-376 Fast Facts**

**Project Length:** Project 14 miles, 5 full interchanges, 2 partial interchanges, New Monongahela River Bridge

**Capacity:** 4 lane divided toll highway with limited access using Open Road Tolling

# PA Turnpike/ MON/FAYETTE EXPRESSWAY, PA ROUTE 51 TO I-376

Allegheny County, PA

**Significance:** Encourages redevelopment of abandoned industrial sites, encourages revitalization neighborhoods, and relieves traffic congestion on local roadways, improves the regional transportation network.

**Cost:** Southern Section approximately \$1.1 Billion, Northern Section approximately \$1 Billion

**Social Equity and Access:** Support job creation in the Mon Valley, provide regional transportation improvements including better highway access and mobility to underserved communities still trying to recover from the loss of the steel industry, provides a faster and safer travel option for traffic; particularly commercial vehicles that once used the existing arteries such as PA Route 51, 88 and 837 as well as U.S. Routes 119 and I-70.

