

PennDOT plans fifth lane on Route 309 in Shavertown

Medial barrier proves unworkable

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is "leaning strongly towards a fifth lane" to be installed on Route 309 between Harris Hill Road and Center Street in Kingston Township next year, according to Bob Hassell, a PennDOT engineer.

Hassell and Faith Ann Liuzzo spoke to members of the Back Mountain Business and Professional Association last week. They were accompanied by Alan King, an engineer with Borton-Lawson Engineering, which is designing changes to routes 309 and 415 in

the Back Mountain. King explained his firm's plan to add traffic lights and concrete islands at several intersections, and a "jug handle" turn for northbound traffic on Route 309 at Hillside Road.

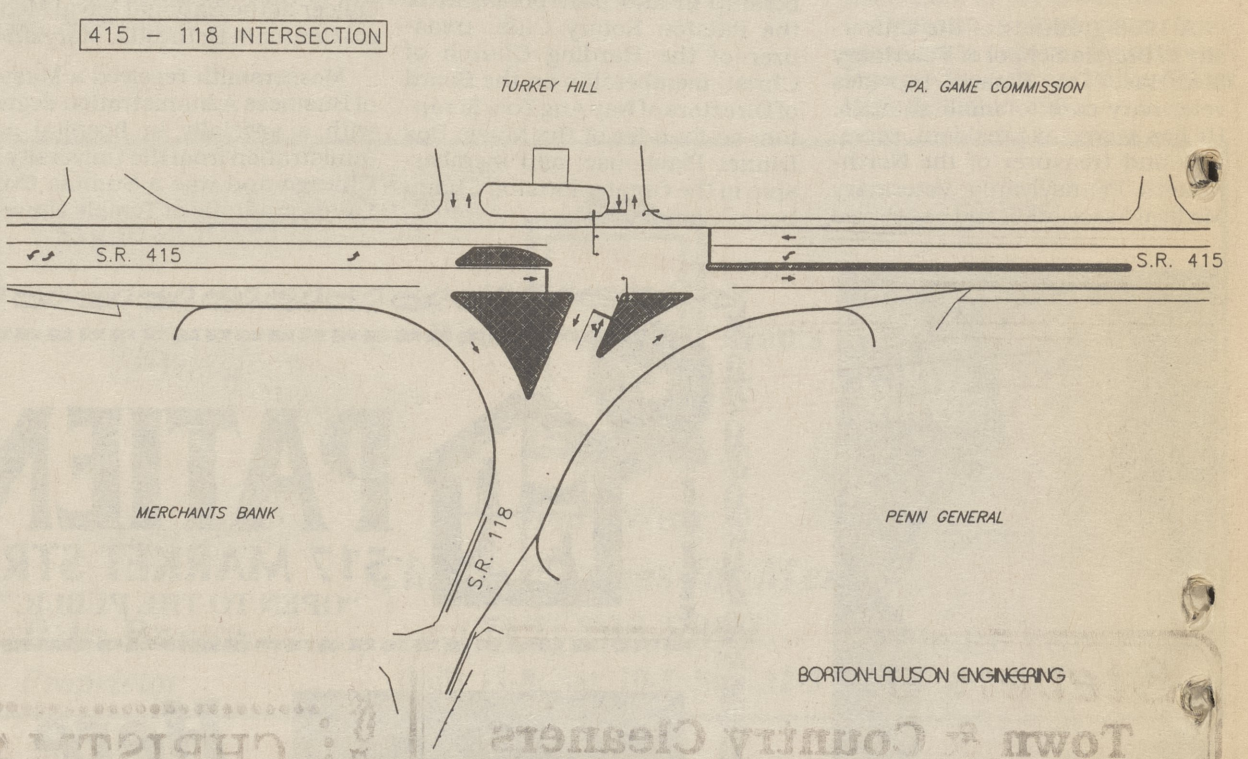
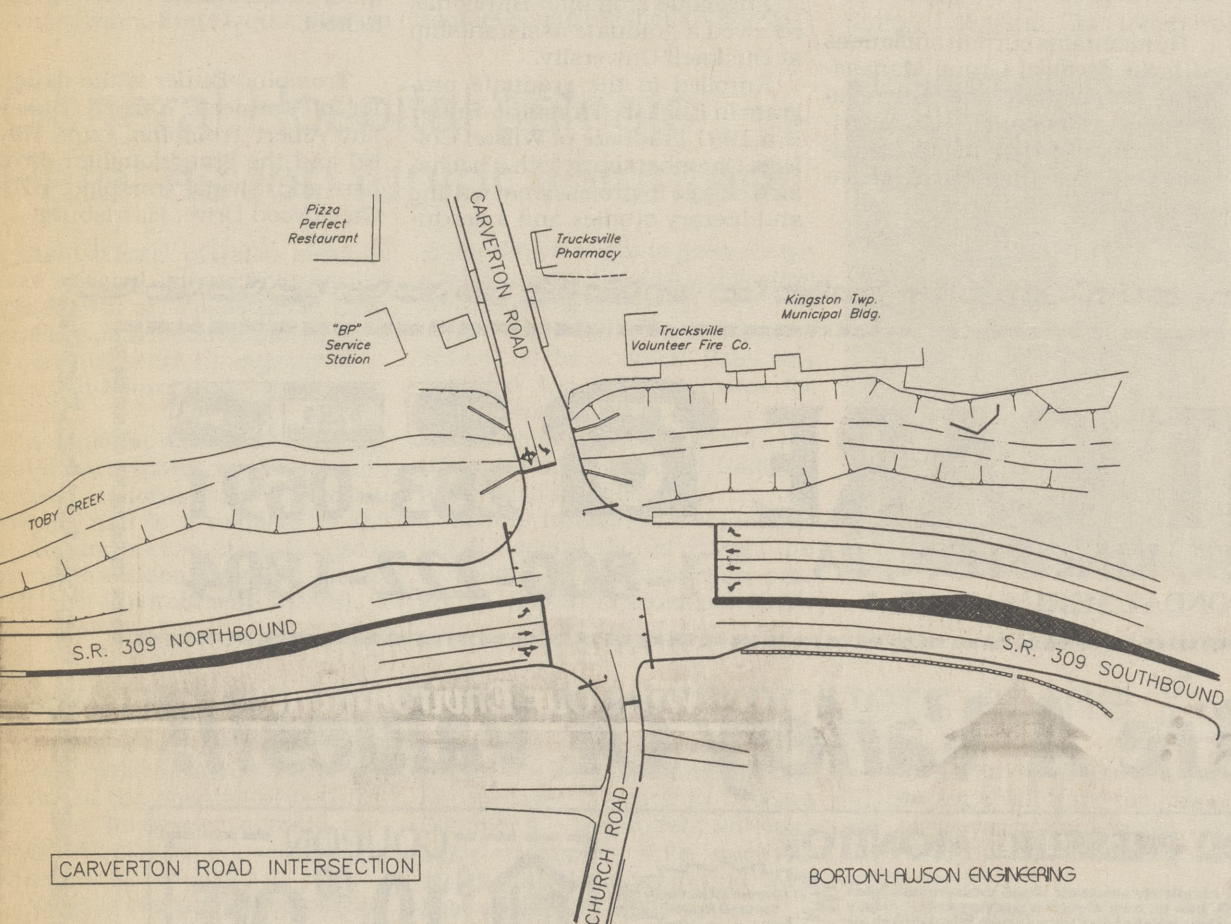
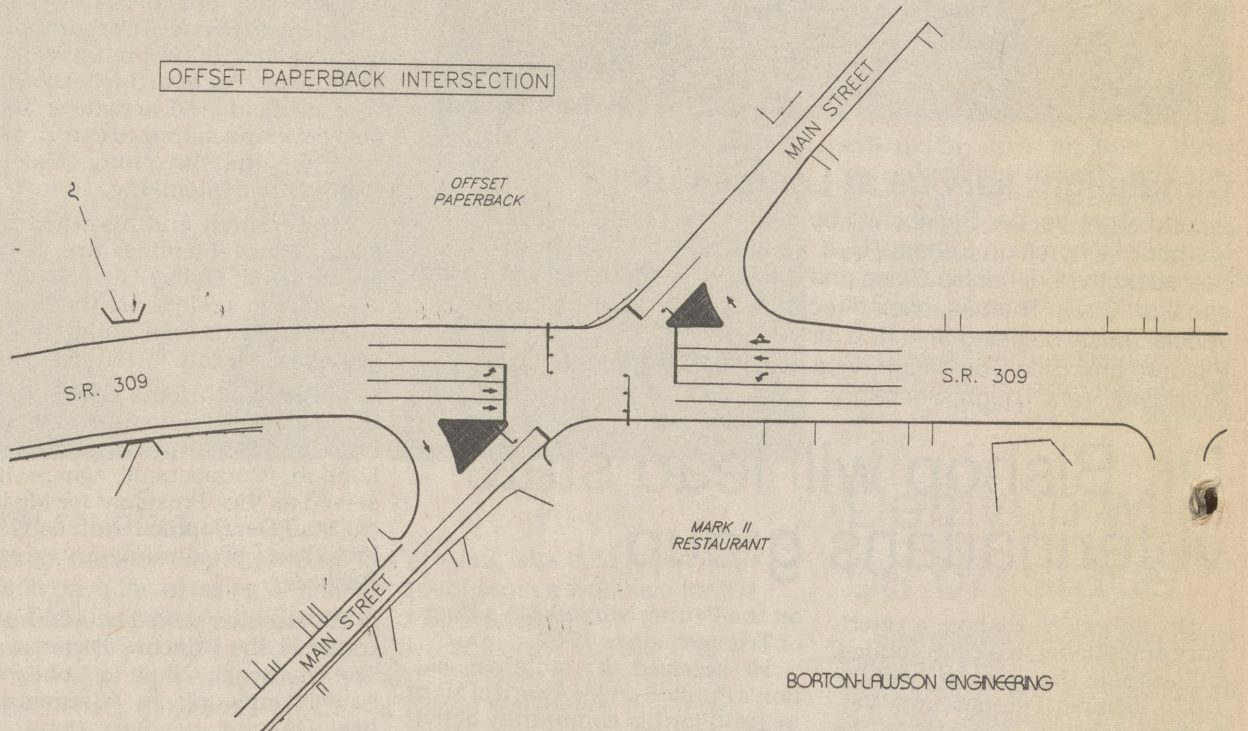
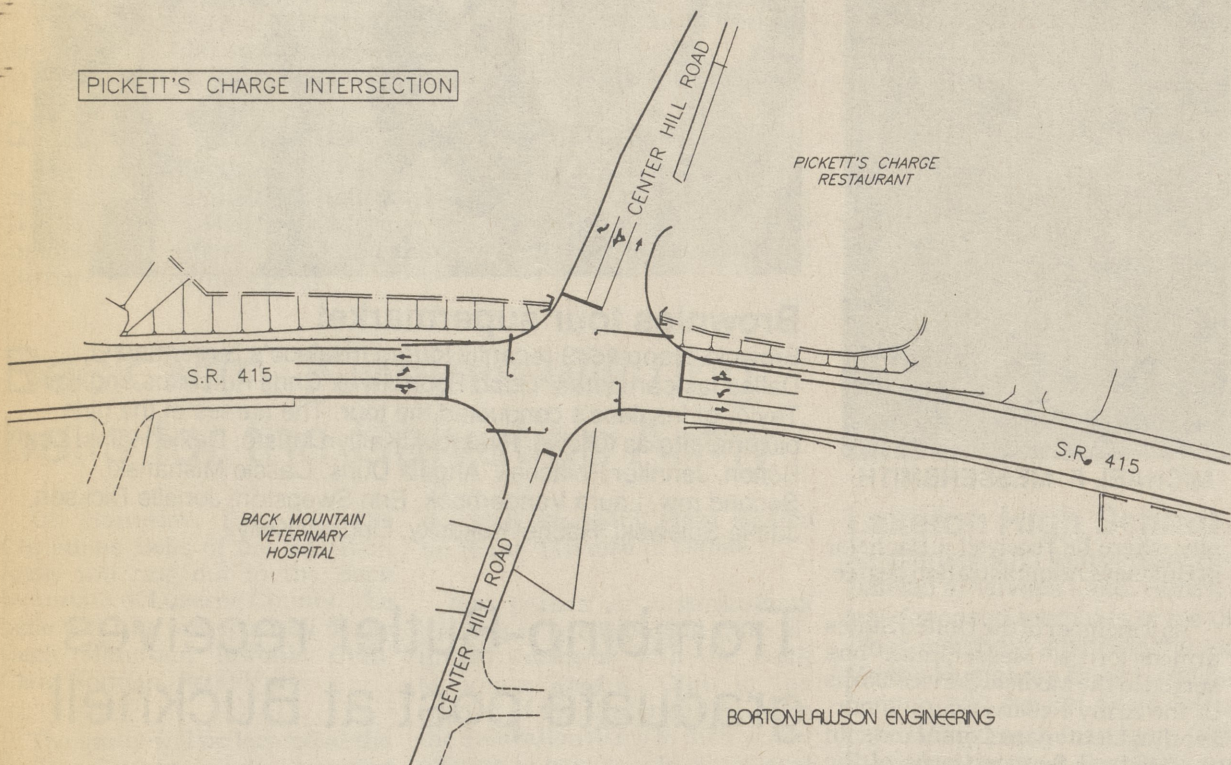
Earlier this year, PennDOT had said there was a possibility that a

center barrier would be installed in Kingston Township, rather than the fifth lane. Owners of businesses in that area were concerned that a barrier preventing left turns would deprive them of customers. But Hassell said that placing a barrier along the highway would have required additional jug handle turns and lights, slowing traffic.

Hassell said that most traffic signals on Route 309 would be synchronized so that motorists traveling at the speed limit would not have to stop. He and King also described several places where areas for buses to pull off the highway would be provided.

In addition to the Hillside Road

intersection, work is planned at the intersections of Route 309 and Franklin Street, Main Road and Hildebrandt Road, as well as at the Center Hill Road and Route 118 intersections on Route 415. Work on the fifth lane is expected to begin first, starting in the fall of 1993, with renovation to intersections taking place later.





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