

Port Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (February 11, 2022) - With the Red Line currently out of service due to the unexpected closure of the Saw Mill Run Boulevard Bridge, Port Authority of Allegheny County has expedited a light rail station rehabilitation project that will begin Monday at Fallowfield Station in Pittsburgh's Beechview neighborhood.

The work will include repairing the concrete platforms and metal railings, replacing tactile pads, refurbishing overhead canopies, and painting various areas of the station. Crews will work weekdays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., although weekends may be used as make-up days. The work is expected to take about 60 days.

Port Authority's board in 2021 approved a total of \$10.8 million to complete the project, which includes work on a total of 18 high platform light rail stations. The Authority had been planning to begin the project this spring but is taking advantage of the closure of Fallowfield Station to complete the work early and with fewer disruptions to service.

"Starting this work on Monday gives us the rare opportunity to work on a station while it's not in use, which also means we won't have to close it again later this year," said David Huffaker, Port Authority's chief development officer. "This means we will inconvenience residents and riders as little as possible, and hopefully not at all."

The agency is also seeking to identify other stations where it may be possible to take further advantage of the bridge outage by beginning work early. Should any other work be scheduled, the Authority will provide more advanced notice.

Port Authority closed the Saw Mill Run Boulevard Bridge on February 4 when an employee noticed a joint on the deck of the bridge had shifted to an abnormal position. This week, engineers determined the bridge shifted after water had penetrated a concrete portion of the bridge and froze during a winter weather storm. The bridge remains stable but will remain closed until repairs are made. A repair timeline will be announced next week.

In the meantime, Port Authority is operating a rail shuttle between Overbrook Junction and Potomac Station and a bus shuttle between Potomac Station and Station Square. Both are operating every 20 to 30 minutes.

For more information about service issues, Port Authority's Customer Service team is available from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays by calling 412-442-2000, on Twitter @pghtransitcare or via live chat at www.PortAuthority.org.

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