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**SKELLY AND LOY TO PERFORM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FOR  
THE STATE COLLEGE AREA CONNECTOR PROJECT**  
Long-Awaited Transportation Connection in Centre County to Improve U.S. Route 322  
From Seven Mountains to the State College Area

January 31, 2020 – HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania - [Skelly and Loy](#), as a subconsultant to [Johnson, Mirmiran, & Thompson Inc.](#) (JMT), is the environmental consultant of the winning project team for the State College Area Connector Project. Skelly and Loy's environmental task manager for this project is [Paul J. DeAngelo](#), Associate and Vice President, Harrisburg Environmental Services. Paul has managed more than 100 NEPA approvals, ranging in complexity from new highway construction to bridge replacement. His experience encompasses all levels of NEPA and Section 4(f) documentation. The team also includes [American Geotechnical & Environmental Services](#), [Drive Engineering Corp.](#), [Erdman Anthony](#), [Larson Design Group](#), [Quest Corporation of America](#), and [Susquehanna Civil](#).

Work to be performed by Skelly and Loy on this project includes a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) study, environmental investigations and impact assessments, and preparation of documentation required by NEPA review findings. PEL encourages use of information developed in planning to inform the NEPA process, which leads to less duplication of effort and more informed project-level decisions as well as shortening project delivery time. Key environmental investigations are anticipated to address agricultural, historic, archaeological, and community resources; high quality aquatic ecosystems; threatened/endangered species; and public recreation lands.

[The Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization](#), charged with both long-range and short-range transportation planning in Centre County, added \$20 million in state funding to the 2019-2022 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to initiate the \$670 million transportation project to connect the area of Seven Mountains to the State College area. The connection has been a significant local priority for some time and was studied in detail as part of previous efforts that were shelved in 2004 due to lack of federal funding. In the absence of additional federal investments, PennDOT has committed discretionary funding to undertake a new approach to make needed transportation improvements a reality to increase safety and mobility in this often-congested area. This approach is also intended to ensure that the project receives public support and agency approvals.

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*"This project is of great importance for Centre County, for the thousands who travel this road every day, and for the hundreds of thousands who travel this stretch throughout the year. The safety enhancements that will be achieved through this project are vital for our growing community. In addition to improving the quality of life, these long-awaited upgrades also will provide a significant boost to our local economy as it makes the area even more attractive to employers,"* stated Senator Jake Corman.

PennDOT committed \$5 million to begin preliminary engineering on this complex, significant project, and emphasized that community involvement will be a critical component of the project-development process. Given the extensive collaboration to be undertaken with local communities, businesses, and others through the environmental review, design, utilities, and right-of-way phases, the department is also taking steps to align resources for a targeted 2027 construction start.

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Enjoying its 51st year, [Skelly and Loy](#) is an engineering-environmental consulting firm serving public and private sector clients from six Mid-Atlantic offices. Our services include civil, environmental, and mining engineering and permitting activities; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance studies; natural resource management and protection; hazardous waste and industrial hygiene studies and remediation planning; and cultural resource studies and documentation.

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