



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT # 1

RECEIVED

OCT 20 2017

407283

ENGINEERING DEPT

Daria, Monmouth
Co 537 Corridor



**Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements
between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, New Jersey**

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase: Public Comments & Suggestions

Please use the space below to provide comments or suggestions (*Please print legibly*):

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

I request reconsideration of the proposed realignment of Stillwells Corner Road and Route 537 - for the purpose of enabling the existing office use (and related parking) on Lot 25 in Block 70 (400 West Main Street) to continue. I request that the proposed taking be divided between parcels on each side of the two roadways, so that the impact on Lot 25 will be mitigated.

Kindly submit the comments by Friday, October 20, 2017 to:

Daria Jakimowska, P.E., Project Manager
Monmouth County Division of Engineering & Traffic Safety
Hall of Records Annex, 3rd Floor
1 East Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728
Fax 732-431-7765
daria.jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us





MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT # 2

Subject: FW: Route 537 Work Proposal

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 9/27/17, 1:14 PM

To: [REDACTED]

RT537-LPE PIC Comment Tracking

----- Forwarded Message

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 27 Sep 2017 17:04:11 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Conversation: Route 537 Work Proposal

Subject: FW: Route 537 Work Proposal

FYI

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 1:01 PM

To: Jakimowska, Daria

Subject: Re: Route 537 Work Proposal

Thanks. I was viewing the plans. As you may know, a CVS is scheduled to be built next to the TD Bank. Myself and my neighbors - on Redwood Lane - are always worried about traffic on our street.

Over time its become a shortcut (speedway) for cars trying to avoid the light at Moore's Tavern or to beat the light crossing over Route 537 to Raintree Center.

Again, thanks for your assistance.

Best

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 12:50 PM, Jakimowska, Daria <Daria.Jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us> wrote:

You are very welcome. I would like to add that the plans are on file at Freehold Township and the County should you wish to view them in person.

Thank you

Daria

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 12:46 PM
To: Jakimowska, Daria
Subject: Re: Route 537 Work Proposal.

Hello Daria

Thanks for your response - appreciated.

Best

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 12:15 PM, Jakimowska, Daria <Daria.Jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I am sorry to hear that you could not join us at the Public Information Center Meeting on September 19, 2017. Please note that information that was presented is available on the Monmouth County project web site at www.visitmonmouth.com <<http://www.visitmonmouth.com>> . Click 'County Bridge & Road Projects' from right side box, select Freehold - West Main Street (CR537) and review last 4 items under Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE)- Phase 2. In the same folder there is a comment form which I encourage you to fill out with your observations and comments. Your input is important to our project team. The comment period ends on October 20, 2017.

I apologize for my delayed response but your e-mail was in my "junk e-mail" folder which I do not check daily.

Thank you

Daria

Daria A. Jakimowska, P.E.

Chief Engineer, Traffic Design

Monmouth County

Division of Engineering & Traffic Safety

Hall of Records Annex,

1 E. Main Street <[https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+\(732&entry=gmail&source=g](https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+(732&entry=gmail&source=g)>

Freehold, NJ 07728 <[https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+\(732&entry=gmail&source=g](https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+(732&entry=gmail&source=g)>

Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+(732&entry=gmail&source=g

Freehold, NJ 07728 <[https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+\(732&entry=gmail&source=g](https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+(732&entry=gmail&source=g)>

Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+(732&entry=gmail&source=g

Freehold, NJ 07728 <[https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+\(732&entry=gmail&source=g](https://maps.google.com/?q=1+E.+Main+Street%0D+Freehold,+NJ+07728%0D+(732&entry=gmail&source=g)>

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 12:39 PM
To: Jakimowska, Daria
Subject: Route 537 Work Proposal

Hello Daria

My name is [REDACTED]

Due to work obligations I was unable to attend last evenings meeting.

Is there a way that you can email me a version of the proposal ?

Thank you in advance.

[REDACTED]

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the County of Monmouth. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it, without the expressed written consent of the County, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the County of Monmouth. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it, without the expressed written consent of the County, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the County of Monmouth. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it,

without the expressed written consent of the County, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.

----- End of Forwarded Message



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT # 3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:43 PM
To: Jakimowska, Daria
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments 537 Corridor Improvments

Good afternoon,

On behalf of [REDACTED], please accept our comments regarding the 537 Corridor Improvement plans.

Should you require a different format and/or a hard copy mailed, please let me know.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase: Public Comments and Suggestions

Please use the space below to provide comments or suggestions:

Name: [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments/Suggestions:

Please accept these comments on behalf of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has a mission which works to support a culture of health, including changes to the environment, which make active lifestyles an easier option for all. The proposed improvements to the Route 537 corridor supports the work the [REDACTED] and the group is fully supportive of the proposed plans. Specifically, the addition of the sidewalks and bike lanes is something the [REDACTED] feels is necessary for both increased ability to use modes of transportation like walking and biking, but also to improve the visibility and safety for pedestrians, bike riders and walkers. Collectively, these factors can work to improve the health and safety of all who travel on the Route 537 corridor. The [REDACTED] strongly encourage the addition of visual cues, including striped cross walks, electronic walk signals, pedestrian and bike signs, which can assist all users in feeling safe using the Route 537 corridor. Thank you for your efforts and the [REDACTED] looks forward to the final plans being completed.



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT # 4

Subject: FW: Community Stakeholders Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 8:07 AM

From: Jakimowska, Daria <Daria.Jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us>

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Conversation: Community Stakeholders Meeting

FYI & R

Thank you

daj

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 4:43 PM

To: Jakimowska, Daria

Subject: Community Stakeholders Meeting

Dear Daria Jakimowska,

My name is [REDACTED] and I attended the February 15th 2017 meeting on behalf of [REDACTED]. The office is located at [REDACTED] named [REDACTED] on the plan. Since the office was unable to attend the September 19th, 2017 meeting I wanted to make sure I emailed our request in a timely manner. We would like [REDACTED] to be able to continue making a legal left turn out of our parking lot onto Route 537/West Main Street. Please let us know if there is any additional information that you may need. We look forward to being able attend the next meeting.

Thank You, [REDACTED]

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the County of Monmouth. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it, without the expressed written consent of the County, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT # 5

Subject: FW: County Route 537 (West Main Street) Improvements
From: [REDACTED]
Date: 10/18/17, 10:18 AM
To: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Jakimowska, Daria" <Daria.Jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us>
Date: Wed, 18 Oct 2017 13:45:26 +0000
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: County Route 537 (West Main Street) Improvements

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 3:19 PM
To: Jakimowska, Daria
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: County Route 537 (West Main Street) Improvements

Daria: Attached is our completed comment form. Please advise as to the next opportunity to review and/or discuss. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

Please consider the environment before printing this message

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the County of Monmouth. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it, without the expressed written consent of the County, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.



**Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements
between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, New Jersey**

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase: Public Comments & Suggestions

Please use the space below to provide comments or suggestions *(Please print legibly)*:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Comments/Suggestions:

owner of _____ Concerns with regard to impact improvement will have on schlechtweg way. Day School, carwash & storage facility rely heavily on existing westbound left turn into property. Rt 537 improvements propose to eliminate the left turn into site.

Kindly submit the comments by Friday, October 20, 2017 to:

Daria Jakimowska, P.E., Project Manager
Monmouth County Division of Engineering & Traffic Safety
Hall of Records Annex, 3rd Floor
1 East Main Street
Freehold, NJ 07728
Fax 732-431-7765
daria.jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us





MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT # 6

Subject: FW: Route 537 - Public Comments & Suggestions

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 3:18 PM

From: Jakimowska, Daria <Daria.Jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us>

To: [REDACTED]

Conversation: Route 537 - Public Comments & Suggestions

FYI

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 1:07 PM

To: Jakimowska, Daria

Subject: Route 537 - Public Comments & Suggestions

Daria:

Attached is our suggestion with regard to [REDACTED]



NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the County of Monmouth. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it, without the expressed written consent of the County, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.



MONMOUTH COUNTY

**Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ**

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT #7

Subject: Freehold - Monmouth County Route 537 West Main Street Improvement Project

Date: Friday, October 13, 2017 2:02 PM

From: [REDACTED]

To: "daria.jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us" <daria.jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us>,
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Conversation: Freehold - Monmouth County Route 537 West Main Street Improvement Project

Daria Jakimowska and [REDACTED]

Concerns regarding the Freehold Monmouth County Route 537 West Main Street Improvements.

Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements 9-19-2017

Attention Daria Jakimowska [REDACTED]

At the Public information meeting on September 19, 2017 your presentation was still basically the same as you presented on February 15, 2017.

It appears as though you are continuing your plans without addressing any or most of the concerns raised by the many participants at the meetings. I am including my concerns from [REDACTED] once again. The first issue is the bridge that goes over Route 33. I understand this is owned by the state of New Jersey and not Monmouth County. The many issues I raised before still exist and without involving the state is just going to lead to multi-million dollar project that is incomplete in scope and effectiveness for the corridor. It is disturbing to hear that you now plan to add a sidewalk to the west bound side of this same bridge with crosswalks for pedestrian traffic in the existing on and off ramps. This is just adding to the danger around the bridge. A side walk already exists on the east bound side so pedestrian traffic should be limited to one side only.

If you continue the project and do not address the bridge widening and add an access ramp for traffic from Route 33 East and back onto Route 33 West and not just merely re-stripping the lanes of traffic it is imperative that large signs are erected to direct traffic to the hidden entrance of Castranova Way so that traffic may cross over 537 to Wal-Mart Drive and into Longhorn Steakhouse and Olive Garden. This point of the roadway is coming off the bridge and is highly congested.

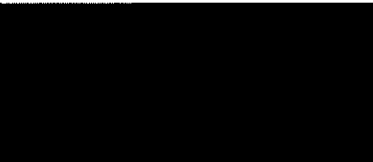
Again with the lack of bridge improvement there is a very large amount of traffic is using Wemrock Road through residential areas, soccer fields, and the school. Many vehicles dally are illegally turning and using the school access road to get to Castranova Way and Wal-Mart Drive. As I have stated prior this road should be permanently closed.

Also as stated prior is our extreme opposition to the extra bus stop lane with the possibility of a structure in front of the two restaurants, Longhorn Steakhouse and Olive Garden. This bus stop may already exist as a courtesy stop only but we do not want it expanded or encourage additional use. It promotes a large amount of foot traffic directly through the two restaurant properties as people are shopping at Wal-Mart or Sam's Club. This foot traffic goes through and damages [REDACTED] landscaping daily as well as finds [REDACTED] cleaning up shopping garbage and empty shopping carts in both the parking lots and the landscape. The direct route from the bus stop to Wal-Mart is through [REDACTED] properties. If the bus stop is going to remain in the project move it west to the other side of the intersection at Wal-Mart Drive in front of the Chase Bank. This would serve two purposes. First it would be before the traffic light where

traffic would be slowing already and not accelerating to speed after the traffic light. Second the side walk that is currently there serves as a natural direct route to Wal-Mart and would not promote foot traffic through any business property.

I have submitted to you prior our many concerns with this project and would hope that you address them and not simply continue without addressing.

Thank you for your time and consideration to our needs and would be available to discuss further if you find it necessary.



Below are the comments from earlier this year.

Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements

Attention: Daria Jakimowska 

At the Community Stakeholders meeting on February 15, 2017 you did solicit feedback and had some representatives take notes on our concerns. I want to send you a complete version of our comments.

First and of primary concern is the bridge that crosses Route 33. I understand that it and access from Route 33 is a state road but it must be included in the project and needs to be addressed now, not after other improvements are done and it is not possible to correct. Yes restriping traffic lanes on the bridge may help traffic flow but it will continue to be a choke point when the widening of 537 becomes seven lanes of traffic. Currently access from Route 33 Eastbound is prohibited to 537 Westbound, as well as 537 Eastbound to Route 33 Westbound. This fact causes all the traffic from Route 33 East to use the Route 33 business exit and the Smithburg exit, the same is true for traffic on 537 Eastbound trying to gain access to Route 33 Westbound. All of that traffic travels on Wemrock Road toward 537 and away from 537, through residential areas past the soccer fields and West Freehold School. If access was permitted from Route 33 this would not happen. All the traffic that flows from Route 33 East to 537 Westbound and from 537 Eastbound to Route 33 Westbound would travel through commercial areas. Simply restriping the bridge does not fix the issues. All of the extra traffic using the corridor due to adding more lanes is really just creating more issues as opposed to really correcting issues. The improvement project that you propose does include adding additional turn lanes to Wemrock Road onto 537, but that is promoting exactly what I stated is wrong with not actually widening the bridge structure and adding ramp access to Route 33 in both directions, not just restriping it. With or without the extra left turn lanes added to Wemrock Road the access road from Wemrock Road to the West Freehold School also needs to be addressed. This road does have a right only entrance from Wemrock Road north and a right only exit onto Wemrock north away from 537. Now whether you care to admit it or not there is a lot of traffic traveling on Wemrock Road toward 537 that uses that access road, illegally turning left, and goes through the school property to gain access to Castranova Way and Walmart Drive. This access road does have a traffic triangle to promote the right only entrance and exit but it does not deter traffic from using it. This road should be closed off from Wemrock Road completely. Simply stating at your meeting that this issue is a matter of traffic enforcement by the Freehold Police Department does not solve the issue rather pushes blame on poor design.

If you do proceed with the current plan and not address the bridge fully now as opposed to waiting until it is a bigger

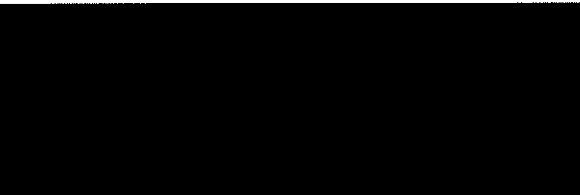
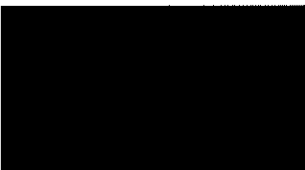
issue in the future then special attention must be paid to how you stripe the lanes and add additional signage. Currently when traveling on 537 west from Trotters Way the choke points of the bridge occur when traffic is leaving 537 west to Route 33 west, traffic leaving 537 west to Route 33 east, and the turn lane for Castranova Way to access Walmart Drive almost all at the same time. Traffic is allowed to turn left from 537 east onto Castranova Way but not left from 537 west to Walmart Drive. The improvements to 537 should include left turn lanes for 537 west onto Walmart Drive. This may or may not be possible. If not possible than a large sign must be erected across the road indicating that access to Walmart Drive is from Castranova Way. As it is now traffic does not even see Walmart Drive before they must use the turn lane for Castranova Way which promotes illegal left turns and accidents at Walmart Drive or traffic drives past Walmart Drive until a U-turn option becomes available. This makes the same car use more of 537 than they actually would be if the signage indicated where to properly turn to access Walmart Drive.

The widening and adding additional lanes for travel in both directions on 537 involves taking 8 or more feet from the properties on both sides of the highway, so that it may become 7 lanes of travel. While that will not impose significant hardship on the [REDACTED] properties we are opposed to the extra additional widening that you are proposing for the courtesy bus stop for New Jersey Transit and are highly opposed to any structure that may be erected at the stop. This bus stop will promote foot traffic through these properties trying to access Wal-Mart, not a benefit to either restaurant. As it stands now it is only a courtesy stop without any significate usage as most buses pass without stopping. There is no need to add any additional widening for the courtesy stop and take even more property [REDACTED]

As was discussed at the meeting we would like to be sure that every and all measures are taken to lessen all negative impacts to our business as the improvements are made. Specifically the staging of construction and the signs appropriately placed indicating how traffic will be able to access our properties. As improvements are needed we do not want to suffer during the construction period that was indicated to last two construction seasons.

We do hope that you listen to our concerns and address all so that this project can truly benefit all in the future. While most of the concerns are based on our needs the issues with the bridge are benefits to every driver on 537 and the entire corridor.

Thank you for your time,



P Before printing this e-mail think if it is necessary
This e-mail message is for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain information that is confidential, proprietary or privileged. Any unauthorized review, use, distribution, copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, please notify sender of the delivery error by replying to this message and then delete it from your system. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient is not a walver of confidentiality or privilege.

Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements 9-19-2017

Attention Daria Jakimowska [REDACTED]

At the Public information meeting on September 19, 2017 your presentation was still basically the same as you presented on February 15, 2017.

It appears as though you are continuing your plans without addressing any or most of the concerns raised by the many participants at the meetings. I am including my concerns from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] once again. The first issue is the bridge that goes over Route 33. I understand this is owned by the state of New Jersey and not Monmouth County. The many issues I raised before still exist and without involving the state is just going to lead to multi-million dollar project that is incomplete in scope and effectiveness for the corridor. It is disturbing to hear that you now plan to add a sidewalk to the west bound side of this same bridge with crosswalks for pedestrian traffic in the existing on and off ramps. This is just adding to the danger around the bridge. A side walk already exists on the east bound side so pedestrian traffic should be limited to one side only.

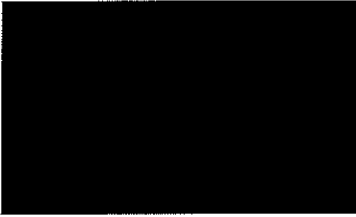
If you continue the project and do not address the bridge widening and add an access ramp for traffic from Route 33 East and back onto Route 33 West and not just merely re-stripping the lanes of traffic it is imperative that large signs are erected to direct traffic to the hidden entrance of Castranova Way so that traffic may cross over 537 to Wal-Mart Drive and into Longhorn Steakhouse and Olive Garden. This point of the roadway is coming off the bridge and is highly congested.

Again with the lack of bridge improvement there is a very large amount of traffic is using Wemrock Road through residential areas, soccer fields, and the school. Many vehicles daily are illegally turning and using the school access road to get to Castranova Way and Wal-Mart Drive. As I have stated prior this road should be permanently closed.

Also as stated prior is our extreme opposition to the extra bus stop lane with the possibility of a structure in front of the two restaurants, Longhorn Steakhouse and Olive Garden. This bus stop may already exist as a courtesy stop only but we do not want it expanded or encourage additional use. It promotes a large amount of foot traffic directly through the two restaurant properties as people are shopping at Wal-Mart or Sam's Club. This foot traffic goes through and damages [REDACTED] landscaping daily as well as finds [REDACTED] cleaning up shopping garbage and empty shopping carts in both the parking lots and the landscape. The direct route from the bus stop to Wal-Mart is through [REDACTED] properties. If the bus stop is going to remain in the project move it west to the other side of the intersection at Wal-Mart Drive in front of the Chase Bank. This would serve two purposes. First it would be before the traffic light where traffic would be slowing already and not accelerating to speed after the traffic light. Second the side walk that is currently there serves as a natural direct route to Wal-Mart and would not promote foot traffic through any business property.

I have submitted to you prior our many concerns with this project and would hope that you address them and not simply continue without addressing.

Thank you for your time and consideration to our needs and would be available to discuss further if you find it necessary.



Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements

Attention: Daria Jakimowska and Martine Culbertson

At the Community Stakeholders meeting on February 15, 2017 you did solicit feedback and had some representatives take notes on our concerns. I want to send you a complete version of our comments.

First and of primary concern is the bridge that crosses Route 33. I understand that it and access from Route 33 is a state road but it must be included in the project and needs to be addressed now, not after other improvements are done and it is not possible to correct. Yes restriping traffic lanes on the bridge may help traffic flow but it will continue to be a choke point when the widening of 537 becomes seven lanes of traffic. Currently access from Route 33 Eastbound is prohibited to 537 Westbound, as well as 537 Eastbound to Route 33 Westbound. This fact causes all the traffic from Route 33 East to use the Route 33 business exit and the Smithburg exit, the same is true for traffic on 537 Eastbound trying to gain access to Route 33 Westbound. All of that traffic travels on Wemrock Road toward 537 and away from 537, through residential areas past the soccer fields and West Freehold School. If access was permitted from Route 33 this would not happen. All the traffic that flows from Route 33 East to 537 Westbound and from 537 Eastbound to Route 33 Westbound would travel through commercial areas. Simply restriping the bridge does not fix the issues. All of the extra traffic using the corridor due to adding more lanes is really just creating more issues as opposed to really correcting issues.

The improvement project that you propose does include adding additional turn lanes to Wemrock Road onto 537, but that is promoting exactly what I stated is wrong with not actually widening the bridge structure and adding ramp access to Route 33 in both directions, not just restriping it. With or without the extra left turn lanes added to Wemrock Road the access road from Wemrock Road to the West Freehold School also needs to be addressed. This road does have a right only entrance from Wemrock Road north and a right only exit onto Wemrock north away from 537. Now whether you care to admit it or not there is lot of traffic traveling on Wemrock Road toward 537 that uses that access road, illegally turning left, and goes through the school property to gain access to Castranova Way and Walmart Drive. This access road does have a traffic triangle to promote the right only entrance and exit but it does not deter traffic from using it. This road should be closed off from Wemrock Road completely. Simply stating at your meeting that this issue is a matter of traffic enforcement by the Freehold Police Department does not solve the issue rather pushes blame on poor design.

If you do proceed with the current plan and not address the bridge fully now as opposed to waiting until it is a bigger issue in the future then special attention must be paid to how you stripe the lanes and add additional signage. Currently when traveling on 537 west from Trotters Way the choke points of the bridge occur when traffic is leaving 537 west to Route 33 west, traffic leaving 537 west to Route 33 east, and the turn lane for Castranova Way to access Walmart Drive almost all at the same time. Traffic is allowed to turn left from 537 east onto Castranova Way but not left from 537 west to Walmart Drive. The improvements to 537 should include left turn lanes for 537 west onto Walmart Drive. This may or may not be possible. If not possible than a large sign must be erected across the road indicating that access to Walmart Drive is from Castranova Way. As it is now traffic does not even see Walmart Drive before they must use the turn lane for Castranova Way which promotes illegal left turns and accidents

at Walmart Drive or traffic drives past Walmart Drive until a U-turn option becomes available. This makes the same car use more of 537 than they actually would be if the signage indicated where to properly turn to access Walmart Drive.

The widening and adding additional lanes for travel in both directions on 537 involves taking 8 or more feet from the properties on both sides of the highway, so that it may become 7 lanes of travel. While that will not impose significant hardship on the Longhorn Steakhouse and Olive Garden properties we are opposed to the extra additional widening that you are proposing for the courtesy bus stop for New Jersey Transit and are highly opposed to any structure that may be erected at the stop. This bus stop will promote foot traffic through these properties trying to access Wal-Mart, not a benefit to either restaurant. As it stands now it is only a courtesy stop without any significant usage as most buses pass without stopping. There is no need to add any additional widening for the courtesy stop and take even more property from the front of Olive Garden.

As was discussed at the meeting we would like to be sure that every and all measures are taken to lessen all negative impacts to our business as the improvements are made. Specifically the staging of construction and the signs appropriately placed indicating how traffic will be able to access our properties. As improvements are needed we do not want to suffer during the construction period that was indicated to last two construction seasons.

We do hope that you listen to our concerns and address all so that this project can truly benefit all in the future. While most of the concerns are based on our needs the issues with the bridge are benefits to every driver on 537 and the entire corridor.

Thank you for your time,

Ray Nash

Managing Partner

Longhorn Steakhouse



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Route 537 Corridor
Roadway Improvements between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – September 19, 2017

PIC COMMENT #8

Subject: FW: PIC Comments - County Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements-September 19, 2017

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 9/25/17, 9:25 AM

To: [REDACTED]

FYI - RT537 PIC Tracking

----- Forwarded Message

From: "Jakimowska, Daria" <Daria.Jakimowska@co.monmouth.nj.us>

Date: Mon, 25 Sep 2017 11:54:54 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conversation: PIC Comments - County Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements-September 19, 2017

Subject: FW: PIC Comments - County Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements-September 19, 2017

FYI

Thank you

Daria

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:16 PM

To: Jakimowska, Daria

Subject: PIC Comments - County Route 537 Corridor Roadway Improvements-September 19, 2017

Attn: Daria Jakimowska, P.E., Project Manager

Please find my enclosed comments from the public information center for County Route 537 held on September 19, 2017 in Freehold Township.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This message, including any prior messages and attachments, may contain advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material, confidential information or privileged communications of the County of Monmouth. Access to this message by anyone other than the sender and the intended recipient(s) is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, any disclosure, copying, distribution or action taken or not taken in reliance on it, without the expressed written consent of the County, is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, you should not save, scan, transmit, print, use or disseminate this message or any information contained in this message in any way and you should promptly delete or destroy this message and all copies of it. Please notify the sender by return e-mail if you have received this message in error.

----- End of Forwarded Message

—Attachments: —————

PIC Meeting_September19_2017.pdf

2.0 MB

Comments Submitted by :



My previously submitted comments for any project along County Route 537 during any phase.

Is this major work to County Route 537 and Wemrock Road/Stillwells Road really needed? This project proposes major widening of all of the roadways for traffic that may not exist if the intersection of Business Route 33 and Wemrock Road is constructed prior to County Route 537.

- A. Business Route 33 and Wemrock Road (also along a NJ Transit route) is a major traffic problem in the area. Wemrock Road backs up to Highway Route 33 for much of the day, even after the NJDOT made operational improvements to the signalization of the intersection.
 - 1. Does the traffic at the intersection of County Route 537 and Wemrock Road/Stillwells Road improve after the construction of the planned Business Route 33 and Wemrock Road project? The intersection improvement sign was removed over a decade ago; but, the traffic problems still exists.
 - 2. The NJDOT gave access to Knob Hill country club golf course and several other residential communities along Route 33; therefore, the NJDOT is aware of the increased traffic being generated at County Route 537 and Wemrock Road.
 - 3. Does making other intersections improvements at other locations and other small changes to the area (like driveway changes) in the area decrease the traffic at the intersections along County Route 537?
- B. Does the traffic decrease with the construction of a freight line/commuter rail line that has also been discussed in the past decade?
 - 1. The staging of this major transportation infrastructure may greatly reduce the need for the major changes that need to be done at the County Route 537 and Wemrock/Stillwells intersection.
 - 2. A rail line would remove vehicles from the roadway.

Sidewalks

- A. Along County Route 537 (west of CentraState and east of Wemrock Road); Wemrock Road; and TB Bank side of Iron Bridge Road

Sidewalk needs to be added:

1. Along County Route 537, especially west of CentraState (both sides of the roadway)
 2. On the public school side of Wemrock Road from Hutchinson Road (which is a designated NJ Transit bus stop) to County Route 537. The presentation boards at the public information center did not include sidewalk along this side of the roadway.
- B. Making the area more "pedestrian friendly" in the hopes of reducing local traffic for people making shorter trips.
1. Extension of a paved walking path from in front of the US Post Office to CentraState Hospital (which is a NJ Transit bus stop).
 2. Pedestrian paved walking path from Victoria Court (off of Joda Drive) in Wyndham to the Verizon driveway to the back parking lot for CentraState Hospital (which is a NJ Transit bus stop). There is a café and gym in the closest building to the Verizon driveway off of the CentraState parking lot.

Utilities

- A. While the Federal Highway Administration is in town, is it possible for them to begin looking at removing the utility poles along County Route 537 and placing the utilities underground.
1. The residential communities in the area like Raintree have underground utilities.
 2. Underground utilities would make the area more resilient during major storm events.

Drainage

- A. I support the use of drainage basins along County Route 537 to eliminate any possible roadway drainage problems that may occur with the additional roadway pavement with this project.

Access Revocation by Monmouth County for smaller properties along County Route 537

- A. Quality of life issue for the handful of residents along County Route 537
1. The area has really changed in the past 20 years, and there is a significant increase in traffic along County Route 537.

2. The area's grocery store is now in the Raintree shopping center with the closure of Pathmark at Route 9 and Schank Road. The Raintree shopping center constructed an addition to the existing grocery store more than a decade ago, increasing the size of the grocery store at Raintree.
 3. There is now a second shopping center at the intersection of County Route 537 and Wemrock Road with a Walgreens.
 4. There is a Walmart and a BJ's across the street from the residences. In Freehold Township, the western side of Route 9 shopping centers were removed from Route 9 and are now on County Route 537.
 5. This section of County Route 537 is the shopping district for the western side of Freehold Township. Accessing the businesses in this area is important. *It is sometimes faster to walk to Walgreens than it is to drive.* The traffic can be that bad at times.
- B. For the properties west of CentraState along Country Route 537, consolidating the egress of the properties to a shared driveway exiting into the CentraState parking or Iron Bridge Road.
1. Vehicles would access County Route 537 at a traffic signal controlling the access onto Route 537.
 2. Allow vehicles exiting the properties a right turn only option onto County Route 537.