North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Local Concept Development Study for Monmouth County Bridge S-32 on Rumson Road (CR520) over the Shrewsbury River Borough of Rumson and Borough of Sea Bright Public Information Center Meeting - February 27, 2012

# COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING NO. 1 COMMENTS - PURPOSE AND NEED February 15, 2012

## **Comments Regarding Traffic Movements**

- Right hand turn restriction off bridge to Sea Bright -> lead to backups.
- Traffic from Sea Bright to Rumson is also impacted at traffic signal.
- Both communities use bridge as 4-lanes, not 2-lanes. Only center lane is striped.
- Need 4-lanes on bridge, or more severe backups in summer.
- Make improvements at this intersection in short term, not long term.

# **Comments Regarding Pedestrian Movements**

- Other side of Route 36, along Sea Bright Beach Club, has no sidewalk.
- People cross roadway to and from the beach to businesses.
- People park in Rumson and walk over bridge, mothers with strollers / little children, need more time to cross Route 36 safely.
- Some beach clubs limit members to 1 car -> increases people walking over the bridge; more vehicles cross bridge to pick up/drop off members.
- Bridge sidewalk on south side doesn't connect to anything.
- Bridge is used by people to walk to Holy Cross School / Church; crossing guards on Rumson side of bridge.
- Bridge is also used by people to walk to church services at St. George's Church.
- People walk through Sea Bright Beach Club parking lot (no sidewalk along RT 36). Beach Club doesn't object.
- Limited ped. crosswalk areas north of bridge, people crossing to public beach / beach clubs
- Police, busy in summer to direct traffic & people due to high congestion and conflicts at bridge (motorists, people/bikers crossing bridge and Ocean Avenue / Route 36).

#### **Comments Regarding Bicycle Movements:**

- No accommodations for bikes -> uncertainty where to be.
- Many bikers are teenagers with boogie boards/beach bags trying to steer between motorists; due to no shoulders.

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#### **Other Comments:**

- Lower speed limit to 35 mph during summer; (now 40 mph).
- In summer, with congestion, how well do EMS providers respond to emergencies safely and timely.
- No pre-emptive traffic signals in Sea Bright or Rumson.
- Look at ITS to assist in traffic flow and safety near bridge.

## **Comments on Bridge Closures/Openings Disrupting Traffic Movements**

- Last time Rumson Sea Bright Bridge was closed: 1993 for 3 days.
- Concern for long vehicle backups in Sea Bright + Rumson due to bridge openings.
- Frequency of bridge openings is every 1/2 hour during summer (on demand during off-season).
- Consider examining number of openings and see for options to change schedule.
- Consider limited openings during certain peak car travel times over bridge.
- Improve communications to inform Borough & Public of any bridge closings.
- Bridge openings cause backups to Holy Cross driveways -> access problems.
- It is extremely important to businesses the bridge remains open during rehab/replacement.
- Any load restrictions on bridge: impacts school buses and trucks.
- The Bridge is part of designated Coastal Evacuation Route.
- Ocean Avenue must be kept open to provide for NJ Transit bus routes.
- Multiple school bus companies use the Rumson Sea Bright Bridge (public & private students).
- Maintain Bridge to keep businesses alive -> economic viability.