

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC NOTICES



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

JAMES WEINSTEIN
Commissioner

June 26, 2000

The New Jersey Department of Transportation is providing further clarification of our letter of June 12, 2000, regarding the public information center for the University Heights Connector Project.

The University Heights Connector Project, as proposed, will widen First Street from Sussex Avenue to West Market Street. You are receiving this letter because your property may be affected by this project.

The date and location for the information center has not changed. The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 29, 2000 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the World Impact Center (Newark Christian School), 275 Sussex Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07107.

The meeting will provide you with an opportunity to examine exhibits and discuss the project with Department personnel.

Please plan to attend at a time that is convenient for you. If you have any questions or if you are physically challenged and require assistance, please contact Mr. Thomas Johnson, Community Relations Manager, at (609) 530-2110.

Sincerely,

David A. Kuhn, P.E.
Program Manager
Newark Metropolitan Area
Division of Project Management

c Communications

Public Information Center
Thursday, June 29, 2000 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
World Impact Center (Newark Christian School)
275 Sussex Avenue (@ First Street), Newark, NJ

University Heights Connector
First Street Improvements between W. Market Street and Sussex Avenue
City of Newark, Essex County

The Meeting: This Public Information Center is being held by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to present and provide for review the proposed plans for the development of the University Heights Connector. The University Heights Connector project proposes the widening of existing First Street between West Market Street and Sussex Avenue in the City of Newark, Essex County. Widening is necessary along one side of First Street to provide a roadway and streetscape design that provides for operations and safety meeting State criteria.

This Center includes representatives of the NJDOT and its design consultant who seek to inform residents, property owners, community leaders and other stakeholders directly affected by the project of the Department's goals and objectives. *An important element of today's Public Information Center is the exchange of ideas and comments with the affected community.* Your comments are very important to the ongoing design and environmental process.

This Public Information Center will be followed by additional technical environmental and design studies, and discussions with local representatives and stakeholders. Future public outreach will occur to present a refined University Heights Connector proposal incorporating the findings of today's meeting and subsequent studies and discussions.

Project Background: Improved connections between the Route I-280 corridor and the Newark Central Business District (CBD) are required to overcome the effects of missing parts of the Newark arterial system. Access to the CBD remains inadequate and reliant upon narrow streets such as First Street and adjacent residential streets. Recent development within the Central Ward and along West Market Street, including UMDNJ, Essex County College and new housing units, have also increased vehicular demands within the community. A recent NJDOT study determined that *40% of traffic exiting I-280 at First Street were bound for destinations west of the CBD, incl. UMDNJ and nearby homes and institutions.*

Due to these conditions, the First Street corridor between West Market Street and Sussex Avenue and its cross street intersections have significant physical, operational and safety concerns, especially during peak periods. To address these concerns, local and State representatives have proposed to widen this section of First Street to meet the widened sections to the north and south (Bergen Street). These measures will ease bottlenecks and reduce local street diversions by improving access to West Market Street & Raymond Boulevard. They will also create a boulevard through the Central Ward, aligned with Bergen Street, to improve local

peak period operations and safety, emergency access, and provide a visual gateway to the Roseville area.

The Project: Improvement measures required to meet State and Federal design and operational criteria require widening First Street to provide a minimum of two through lanes and a left turn bay / median with adequate tapers. This project will widen the existing 40' width of First Street to create a 74' wide, landscaped urban boulevard between West Market Street and Sussex Avenue, featuring:

- ◆ Two - 13' through lanes in each direction
- ◆ A 22' wide landscaped median with left turn bays at Central Avenue and W. Market Street.
- ◆ Elimination of Curbside Parking
- ◆ Reconstructed Sidewalks, Utilities and Drainage
- ◆ Class 1 Bikeway (part of the Newark Greenway)

At this time, the Proposed Alternative recommends that requisite corridor widening occur along the west side of the First Street corridor, where nearly one-third of the required properties are currently owned by the State or the City.

Activities: The current phase of this improvement program began in February, 2000, and has included a range of technical and environmental investigations and contacts with the community. The schedule for the University Heights Connector project is:

- ◆ Final Scope Development (incl. Environmental Assessment): March 2002
- ◆ Initial and Final Design: December 2004
- ◆ Construction Completed: January 2006

NJDOT initiated technical studies for an Environmental Assessment (EA) in May 2000. The EA is part of a required Federal process that includes the analysis of Social, Economic and Environmental impacts in the project area. Public involvement is an important component of this Federal environmental review. Additionally, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NJDOT is conducting archaeological and historic architectural investigations for the University Heights Connector project. The results of these investigations are anticipated in August, 2000.

For Further Information Contact:

Tom Johnson
Office of Community Relations
New Jersey Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue, P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625 609-530-2110

New Jersey Department of Transportation



Governor Christine Todd Whitman

Commissioner James Weinstein

Centro de Informacion Publica
Jueves, 29 de Junio - 4:00 PM a 7:00 PM
World Impact Center (Newark Christian School)
275 Avenida Sussex, Newark, New Jersey

Conector de University Heights
Mejoras de la calle First desde la calle Market Oeste hasta la Avenida Sussex
Ciudad de Newark, Essex County

La Reunion: Este Centro de Informacion Publica se esta convocando por el Departamento de Transporte de New Jersey (NJDOT) para presentar y proveer ocasion y lugar para examinar los planos propuestos para el Desarrollo del Conector de University Heights. El proyecto del Conector de University Heights propone el ensanche de la existente, calle, First Street, entre West Market Street la Avenida Sussex, en la ciudad de Newark en Essex County. El ensanche a lo largo de un lado de First Street es necesario para proveer un diseno de carretera y estetica de sus alrededores que cumplan con los requisitos y criterios de operacion y seguridad del estado.

Este Centro incluye representantes del Departamento de Transporte de New Jersey (NJDOT) y su consultor de diseno quienes desean informar a los residentes, duenos de propiedad, lideres de la comunidad y empresarios directamente afectados por las metas y objetivos del Departamento. **Un importante elemento del Centro de Informacion Publica es el intercambio de ideas y observaciones con el segmento de la comunidad afectada.** Sus comentarios son de gran importancia hacia el diseno vigente y el proceso ambiental.

Este Centro de Informacion Publica continuara con estudios adicionales de tecnica ambiental y diseno, y conferencias con representantes y empresarios locales. Futuro contacto con el publico se establecera para presentar una propuesta aun mas refinada del Conector de University Heights, la misma incorporara los resultados de la reunion de hoy y de futuros estudios y dialogo.

Antecedentes del Proyecto: Se requiere mejorar las conexiones entre la Rota I-280 y el Distrito Central de Comercio De Newark (Newark Central Business District - CBD) para superar los efectos de ramales que carece el sistema de arterias de transito de la ciudad de Newark. Acceso al CBD se mantiene inadecuado y dependiente de calles estrechas tal como First Street y otras calles reidenciales adyacentes. Reciente desarrollo dentro del Barrio Central (Central Ward) y a lo largo de West Market Street, incluyendo UMDNJ, Essex County College y nuevas unidades de viviendas, han aumentado la demanda vehicular dentro de la comunidad. Un reciente estudio del NJDOT determino que el 40% del transito saliendo de la I-280 en First Street, se dirigia hacia paraderos en el oeste del CBD, UMDNJ y hogares e instituciones cercanas.

Debido a estas condiciones, el corredor de First Street entre West Market Street y Sussex Avenue y sus intersecciones transversals tienen problemas significativos de indole fisica, operacional y de seguridad, especialmente durante periodos de mayor trafico. Para resolver estos problemas, representantes locales y del estado han propuesto ensanchar esta seccion de First Street para conectar con las secciones ya ensanchadas hacia el norte y el sur (Bergen Street). Estas medidas aliviarian los tapones de transito y a la vez reduciran los desvios hacia las calles locales al mejorar el acceso a West Market Street y Raymond Boulevard. Adicionalmente, crearan un bulevar (boulevard) a traves del Barrio Central (Central Ward), alineado con Bergen Street, para mejorar dentro de los periodos de mayor trafico, la operacion y seguridad

vehicular, acceso a salidas de emergencia, mas proveer una atractiva entrada al area de Roseville.

El Proyecto: Medidas de mejoras, que se requiere cumplan con criterios estatal y federal de diseno y operacional, exige se ensanche First Street tal que se provea un minimo de dos carriles continuos y un tramo claro para viraje a la izquierda/mediana con carril de seccion variable adecuado. Este proyecto ensanchara la seccion existente de First Street de anchuras de 40 pies a 74 pies, proveyendo un bulevar esteticamente desarrollado con arboles o grama entre West Market Street y Sussex Avenue, el cual consiste de:

- Dos carriles de 13 pies continuos en cada direccion.
- Una mediana sembrada de 22 pies de anchura con claros, para viraje izquierdo en la Avenida "C" y W. Market Street.
- La eliminacion de estacionamiento en el encintado.
- Reconstruccion de aceras, utilidades y drenaje.
- Paseo de ciclistas Clase 1 (parte del "Newark Greenway").

Al presente, la Alternativa Propuesta recomienda que el ensanche requerido del corredor se construya a lo largo del lado oeste del corredor de First Street, adonde casi una tercera parte de las propiedades pertenecen, al presente, a la ciudad o el estado.

Actividades: La presente fase de este programa de mejoras epezo en Febrero del 2000, y ha incluido una extension de las investigaciones tecnicas y ambientales, mas intercambio con la comunidad. El itinerario para el proyecto del conector de University Heights es:

- Desarrollo Final del Plan de Accion (incluyendo Asesoramiento Ambiental): Marzo 2002
- Diseno Inicial y Final: Diciembre, 2004
- Construccion Terminada: Enero 2006

NJDOT inicio estudios tecnicos para un Asesoramiento Ambiental (EA) en Mayo 2000. El EA es parte de un proceso Federal, que es requisito, el cual incluye analisis del impacto Social, Economico y Ambiental en el area del proyecto. La participacion del publico es un componente importante de este examen ambiental Federal. Adicionalmente, de acuerdo con la Seccion 106 del "National Historic Preservation Act" del 1966, el NJDOT esta conduciendo investigaciones arqueologicas e historica- arquitectonicas para el proyecto del Conector de University Heights. Los resultados de estas investigaciones se anticipan para Agosto 2000.

Para Mas Informacion, Favor de Comunicarse con:

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Office of Community Relations
New Jersey Department of Transportation
1035 Parkway Avenue
P.O. Box 600
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-530-2110

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