



MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
**Forrestal Road to  
 Aaron Road Project**  
 Community Advisory Committee

**ROUTE 1 FORRESTAL ROAD TO AARON ROAD PROJECT**  
**Townships of South Brunswick, North Brunswick and Plainsboro**  
**Middlesex County, NJ**

**LOCAL OFFICIALS' BRIEFING**  
**MEETING REPORT**

DATE: Monday, October 26, 2009  
 TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
 LOCATION: South Brunswick Township Utility Building, Monmouth Junction, NJ  
 ATTENDEES:

| First Name | Last Name     | Representing                   | Phone        | Email                                  |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Brian      | Bidlack       | South Brunswick Planning       | 732-329-4000 | bbidlack@sbtnj.net                     |
| Upendra    | Chivukula     | NJ State Assembly, District 17 | 732-247-3999 | asmchivukula@njleg.org                 |
| Ken        | Drost         | South Brunswick Police         | 732-329-4000 | kdrost@sbtnj.net                       |
| Walter     | Endler        | No. Brunswick OEM              | 732-247-0922 | wendler@northbrunswickonline.com       |
| Anthony    | Gambilonghi   | Middlesex County Planning      | 732-545-7441 | anthony.gambilonghi@co.middlesex.nj.us |
| Lisa       | Grande        | No. Brunswick EMS/First Aid    | 732-247-0922 | lisa.grande@nbfars.org                 |
| Robert     | Griggs        | So. Brunswick Utilities        | 732-329-4000 | rgriggs@sbtnj.net                      |
| Thomas     | Kazanski      | So. Brunswick – Roads          | 732-329-4000 | tkazansk@sbtnj.net                     |
| Alan       | Laird         | South Brunswick Fire Dept.     | 732-329-4000 | alaird@sbtnj.net                       |
| Gary M.    | Leach         | NJDOT, Project Development     | 609-530-2075 | gary.leach@dot.state.nj.us             |
| Robert     | Lombard       | North Brunswick                | 732-247-0922 | rlombard@northbrunswickonline.com      |
| Larry      | Merk          | South Brunswick Township       | 732-329-4000 | lmerk@sbtnj.net                        |
| Ray        | Olsen         | So. Brunswick, Public Works    | 732-329-4000 | rolsen@sbtnj.net                       |
| Craig      | Patton        | North Brunswick Police         | 732-247-0922 | cpatto@northbrunswickonline.com        |
| Michael    | Proietti      | No. Brunswick – Comm. Dev.     | 732-247-0922 | mproietti@northbrunswickonline.com     |
| Ron        | Schmalz       | South Brunswick Township       | 732-329-4000 | rschmalz@sbtnj.net                     |
| Lester     | Varga         | Plainsboro Planning & Zoning   | 609-799-0909 | lvarga@plainsboronj.com                |
| Matt       | Watkins       | South Brunswick Township       | 732-329-4000 | mwatkins@sbtnj.net                     |
|            |               |                                |              |  |
| Gary       | Leach         | NJDOT, Project Development     | 609-530-2075 | gary.leach@dot.state.nj.us             |
| Meredith   | Hammond       | NJDOT, Community Relations     | 609-530-4555 | meredith.hammond@dot.state.nj.us       |
| Craig      | Johnson       | Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.        | 973-338-9100 | cjohnson@dewberry.com                  |
| Kerri      | Tyerman, P.E. | Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.        | 973-780-9353 | ktyerman@dewberry.com                  |
| Bernard    | Boerchers     | Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.        | 908-236-9001 | bboerchers@gpinet.com                  |
| Martine    | Culbertson    | M. A. Culbertson, LLC          | 856-795-8485 | maculbertson@verizon.net               |

**Please Note: The term Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) presented at the Local Officials Meeting has been changed to Community Advisory Committee (CAC).**

## **PURPOSE OF MEETING**

The purpose of this meeting is to present the project status and schedule and discuss the establishment of a Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) to identify community issues and collaboratively work towards developing transportation improvements for the Route 1 corridor within the study area. (See attached Agenda)

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

1. Meredith Hammond, NJDOT Community Relations Coordinator, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. After introductions, Meredith noted the wealth of knowledge within the room and NJDOT's interest in working early and often with the community stakeholders to be proactive and with team effort to obtain and maintain support for the project. She provided her telephone number, 609-530-4555, to assist with any questions or comments on the project.
2. Gary Leach, NJDOT Project Manager, presented a brief introduction to the project:
  - (a) The study limits are from Forrestal Road in Plainsboro through South Brunswick up to Aaron Road in North Brunswick. The bulk of improvements are anticipated where the highway has only two lanes in each direction.
  - (b) The project is in the Concept Development phase.
  - (c) The process requires identifying community issues and needs; working as a collaborative team with active involvement of stakeholders.
  - (d) Data collection and traffic analysis is underway and a summary of the findings will be presented and are in the handout.
  - (e) Discussions are needed to understand the utilization of the Route 1 corridor and its deficiencies. Recommended improvement concepts will move forward into the Preliminary Engineering phase.
3. Craig Johnson, Dewberry Project Manager, presented the project overview and a description of the existing roadway (see Power Point presentation attachment which can be found on the project website).
  - (a) A Project Fact Sheet and handout with project information and traffic data was distributed at the meeting.
  - (b) The Goal of the Project: To develop a smart, sustainable, permittable, multi-modal solution that enhances quality of life and supports economic growth.
  - (c) The Objectives:
    - Integrate Studies into a Congestion Relief & Mobility Package
    - Define Optimal Cost Effective Solutions
    - Develop Complementary Strategies
  - (d) Other key projects occurring within the corridor:
    - NJDOT Regional Growth Strategy - land use and transportation planning study
    - NJ TRANSIT Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study program
    - Development at former Johnson & Johnson site
    - Proposed improvements at Finnegan's Lane
    - Other NJDOT, Middlesex County and local roadway improvement projects (see Power Point presentation attachment on project website)

4. Bernie Boerchers, Traffic Engineer, presented the traffic and accident data, which is currently under analysis.
  - (a) The Project Fact Sheet and Handout contains diagrams of the intersections within the study area and the congestion management ranking was discussed.
  - (b) Examining the Level of Service data indicates that a number of the jug-handles are at a failing level indicating a deficiency to be addressed.
  - (c) The Route 1 Crash Data reveals higher than State averages at certain locations.
  - (d) It is important to note the type of accidents. A "same direction" crash indicates a congestion related scenario and the "at intersection" accidents also indicate high congestion at the intersections.
  - (e) The number of non-day light crashes may be due to the lack of highway lighting at the intersections. When some of the signalized intersections were updated to remove the median signals, the highway lighting was not re-installed.
  
5. Craig Johnson identified some of the environmental constraints in the study area. Regarding the schedule, a Purpose and Need Statement needs to be developed by March 2010, alternative concepts will be developed in June 2010, and completion of the Concept Development phase is anticipated by December 2010.
  
6. Martine Culbertson, CAC Facilitator, presented the community outreach process.
  - (a) A project specific website has been developed to maximize information dissemination on the project. Beyond the project description and images, the project schedule and meeting reports will be posted on the site.
  - (b) To access information on transportation projects, go to: [www.njcommuter.com](http://www.njcommuter.com) This NJDOT site has information on construction projects and those under study and design.
  - (c) For this project, select the top menu option: "In the Works" and then select from the menu: "Our Projects & the Environment"  
Click from the list: Route 1, Forrestal Road to Aaron Road  
OR enter and save the following web address direct link:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/works/studies/rte1forrestaltoaaron/>
  - (d) A public open house meeting will be held at the appropriate time to present the project, answer questions and obtain input from the general public to develop concepts and later a Public Information Center meeting will be held to present results of the study and a preferred alternative to move forward to Preliminary Engineering.
  - (e) A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be established to identify community interests and discuss concepts with representation from the three municipalities, Middlesex County, regional organizations and civic groups. A draft list of potential CAC members was distributed for review and input from officials.
  - (f) The first CAC Meeting will be scheduled in the second week of December, a follow-up meeting will be in March 2010 and a final CAC meeting will be held in September 2010. Meeting notifications will be sent by email.
  - (g) Each CAC member will receive a Project Portfolio containing project and team contact information, traffic data, and maps. The meeting reports will be distributed via email and posted on the project website.

7. Craig Johnson opened the meeting up for questions and input. The following comments were noted:

- The BRT and Regional Growth Strategy projects have been under discussion and study for 15 years and should not hold up this project.
- Robert Wood Johnson is the designated trauma hospital for the region and emergency vehicles should have safe and effective access through the Route 1 corridor, so pre-emptive traffic signals should be considered, one presently exists at Adams Lane.
- The traffic congestion at Finnegan's Lane must be addressed to provide congestion relief and improve emergency access in the area.

• *Question:* What is the status of the bike and pedestrian issues as part of the Regional Growth Strategy Study?

*Response:* Danielle Graves is the NJDOT Project Manager and their next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd and expected to present results of the study by year-end. This project will incorporate information from that study as appropriate.

• *Question:* How do other NJDOT projects fit with this project?

*Response:* The "Heathcoat Bridge" project is underway as an immediate maintenance project. This project must clearly identify a project purpose and need statement from which concepts are developed to address those needs. If certain improvements can be accelerated, it can be considered, but the project objective is to develop improvements for the study area corridor to operate safely and improve efficiencies as a whole.

• Give consideration to possibly eliminating some low usage jug-handles in order to assist in relieving traffic congestion.

*Response comment:* Must be examined to study the effect on access and safety in the corridor and possible impact to other intersections.

• Traffic signal timing could be contributing to the congestion and back-up especially northbound P.M. rush hour. A possible improvement could be to increase the wait time at the low usage jug-handles then thru traffic could use more green time.

• Some turns could be eliminated during rush hour to divert traffic to another access point. This may help to relieve congestion in the corridor during rush hour - look at Black Horse intersection.

• New Road intersection improvement project is a "quick fix" to help the corridor flow.

*Response comment:* Need to examine overall functionality of the corridor and then assess what improvements may be processed and funded individually or better to package within this project.

• Route 1 Pedestrian and Bicycle Study was done by Middlesex County Planning Department.

*Response comment:* The project team will examine pedestrian and bicycle access in the corridor and will review the results of the County study.

• Promenade Boulevard, is under construction - intersection at northeast corner.

*Response comment:* The project team will study impact of this improvement on the corridor and will track and provide status of other transportation and development projects within the study area. They are taken into consideration in the traffic modeling analysis.

• *Question:* What is the status of the NJTRANSIT project for a Transit Village in North Brunswick?

*Response:* NJ TRANSIT's long range plan is to add another station in the corridor, however the first phase of the development for the North Brunswick TOD, as we have been informed, would include four "big box" stores.

- Concern for flooding at Raymond and Ridge Road.
- Interested in implementation of SMART highway system for Route 1.
- Sandhill Road jug-handle and New Road can't handle capacity.

8. In summary, Gary Leach thanked everyone for their time and input. Meredith Hammond, NJDOT Community Relations Coordinator is the contact person for any questions from the community or media regarding the project.

9. In closing, Craig Johnson noted that beyond the first CAC meeting in December, the next Local Officials Briefing would be in March of 2010. He thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

### **KEY ACTION ITEMS**

1. Attendees to review Draft Community Advisory Committee List and provide names of any missing stakeholders or organizations for consideration as potential CAC members.
2. Attendees to review Project Fact Sheet and Handout information and share project information with their constituents.
3. Project team to review results of any transportation planning studies from Middlesex County or local municipalities; and continue coordination with NJDOT and other agencies projects within the study area.
4. Project team to draft meeting minutes and distribute report to attendees once approved.
5. Project team to confirm date of first CAC Meeting and send out meeting notification via email.

### **NEXT MEETING - Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 1**

Date: December 9, 2009

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: South Brunswick Twp. Utility Building, Monmouth Junction, NJ

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the minutes within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, these minutes will be considered to be record of fact.

Martine Culbertson  
RT1 CAC Facilitator

New Jersey Department of Transportation  
**ROUTE 1, FORRESTAL ROAD TO AARON ROAD**  
**MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ**

Local Officials' Briefing  
**October 26, 2009, 10:00 AM**  
**South Brunswick Township Utility Building**  
**540 Ridge Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ**

**AGENDA**

MEETING PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to present the project status and schedule and discuss the establishment of a Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) to identify community issues and collaboratively work towards developing transportation improvements for the Route 1 corridor within the study area.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Welcome  
Meredith Hammond, *NJDOT, Community Relations*
- Project Introduction  
Gary Leach, *NJDOT Project Manager*

II. PROJECT PRESENTATION

- Project Overview  
Craig Johnson, *Dewberry, Project Manager*
- Traffic Data and Analysis  
Bernard Boerchers, *GPI, Traffic Engineer*
- Community Involvement  
Martine Culbertson, *M.A. Culbertson, LLC, Public Relations*

III. DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

- Question & Answers
- Issues and Opportunities  
Gary Leach, *NJDOT, Project Manager*  
Craig Johnson, *Dewberry, Project Manager*