



MONMOUTH COUNTY
Final Design Phase for
County Route 537, West Main Street, Corridor Roadway Improvements
Between Sentinel Road and U.S. Route 9 Interchange
Township of Freehold, New Jersey

PROJECT INFORMATION

Monmouth County is finalizing the design for operational and safety improvements to the Monmouth County Route 537 (CR 537) West Main Street corridor between Sentinel Road (MP 49.35) and U.S. Route 9 Interchange (MP 51.30) in Freehold Township.

CR 537 is a major east-west transportation corridor serving regional travel needs between Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean Counties. The roadway serves as a connector between several regional routes, namely U.S. Route 9, 33 Freeway, 33 Business, and Routes 34, 79, and I-195. The corridor has substandard design elements, a history of safety concerns, and suffers from traffic congestion and delays due to inadequate roadway capacity. Solutions were developed to improve safety and reduce congestion while still taking into account practical measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts to the natural environment.

Project Overview

A Local Concept Development (LCD) Study for corridor improvements was completed in 2013/2014 through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) using federal funding, with Monmouth County as the project sponsor. Monmouth County as the project lead working with NJTPA, NJDOT and FHWA had completed the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) Phase in 2019. The project is currently in the Final Design (FD) Phase.

Local Concept Development Phase

During the LCD Phase, a Purpose and Need Statement was developed focusing on the need to improve safety and operational movements in the corridor. A number of sensible and practical conceptual alternatives were developed to meet the goals and objectives. Upon completion of an alternatives analysis, and in coordination with the NJTPA, NJDOT, FHWA, local officials, community stakeholders, the general public and permitting agencies, a Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) was recommended to address safety and traffic operational deficiencies with specific corridor roadway improvements. The improvements better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists as well as vehicular traffic. The project limits were modified to eliminate the portion of the corridor within Freehold Borough due to lack of support for CR 537 roadway improvements within the Freehold Borough jurisdiction. Resolutions of Support for the PPA were passed by the Township of Freehold on April 9, 2013 and November 12, 2013, and by the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders on November 14, 2013.

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase

The LPE Phase involved performing engineering and environmental tasks required to obtain an approved National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the project. Property right-of-way impacts and environmental mitigation for the proposed project were identified along with the needed construction permits. Local officials meetings, a community stakeholder meeting, and a public information center were also conducted during this phase for the design development and environmental documentation completion. For the recommended refined PPA, the Township of Freehold was asked to maintain a Resolution of Support.

Final Design Phase

The FD phase involves finalizing the roadway designs and preparing the construction contract documents including plans and specifications. Access modifications are completed in the FD phase along with acquisition and temporary easements of property Right-of-Way (ROW) for construction of the project. The necessary environmental permits for construction will also be obtained during this phase. To inform and to



encourage community input, a community stakeholders meeting and public information center will be conducted during the this phase.

The tasks to be conducted during the FD phase consist of, but are not limited to:

- Securing environmental permits
- Development and completion of Final Design plans
- Geotechnical studies (soil borings with analysis) for structural design
- Utility relocation coordination
- Development and completion of landscaping aesthetic elements
- Right of Way (ROW) Negotiations and Acquisitions
- Development of Maintenance of Traffic and Construction Staging Plans
- Development of Special Provisions to the NJDOT Standard Specifications

Project Schedule (Phases)

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|---|-----------------------|
| Local Concept Development (LCD) Phase | 2011 - 2014 completed |
| Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) Phase | 2015 – 2019 completed |
| Final Design (FD) Phase | 2020 - 2022 |
| Construction Phase | 2022 - 2024 |

Final Design - Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

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|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Environmental Permits | Winter 2021 |
| ROW Availability / Easements | Summer 2022 |
| PS&E Plans | Winter 2022 |
| Completion of Final Design Phase | Summer 2022 |

Final Design - Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Local Officials Meetings | Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021 |
| Community Stakeholders Meeting | Winter 2020/2021 |
| Public Information Center Meeting | Summer 2021 |
| Resolution of Support | Fall 2021 |

For additional project information, please visit the project website: www.cr537westmainstreet.com

Contact Information

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