



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

**COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING NO. 1**  
**MEETING REPORT**

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2017

TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Freehold Township Municipal Building, Room 114, Freehold, NJ

ATTENDEES:

First Name	Last Name	Representing
Sayra	Artalego	DDR Corp., Freehold Marketplace
Carl & Barbara	Handlin	Resident
Floyd	Benneton	Resident
Sal	Campanella	Business Rep - Lombardi
Pasquale	DelPonte	Business Rep
Vincent	DelPonte	Business Rep
Robert	DeVita	Freehold Township School Business Administrator
Pat	DiGiacomo	Resident
A. Richard	Gatto	Freehold Township Planning Board
Krislee	Hall	Maplewood Cemetery Co. & Chapel Mausoleum
Jenn	Kelly	Business Rep – Dr. Gordon & Miller
Scott	Kennel	MRA for Macerich McDonough & Rea Associates
Kevin	Leppert	DDR Corp., Freehold Marketplace
Angelo	Lilla	Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
Michael F.	Lombardi	Moore's Realty Association
Frank	Lucia	Freehold Raceway Mall
Joseph	Luongo	Freehold Township Historic Preservation Commission
John	McGeehan	CentraState Medical Center
Bill	Mehr	Business Rep - Attorney
Michael	Moore	CentraState Medical Center
Ellen	Mount	Business Rep – Ronald Dana & Mounts Corner
Ray	Nash	Long Horn Steak House
Santo	Pezzotti	Mount's Corner Shopping Center
Danielle	Van Wert	CentraState Medical Center



Tim	White	Freehold Township Engineer
		<b>PROJECT TEAM</b>
Thomas	Berryman	NJDOT, Local Aid, District 3
James	Bonanno	Monmouth County Planning
Martine	Culbertson	M. A. Culbertson, LLC
Deval	Desai	NJDOT, Local Aid, District 3
Inkyung	Englehart	Monmouth County Engineering
Michael	Gall	RGA Inc. ( <i>Richard Grubb &amp; Associates, Inc.</i> )
Pamela	Garrett	NJDOT, Bureau of Environmental Project Support
Martin A.	Hofler	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)
Daria	Jakimowska, P.E.	Monmouth County Engineering Department
Paul	McEachen	RGA Inc. ( <i>Richard Grubb &amp; Associates, Inc.</i> )
Brian	Medino, P.E.	Hardesty & Hanover, LLC
Robert	Strang-Wolf, P.E.	Monmouth County Engineering Department
Michael	Swietanski, P.E.	Hardesty & Hanover, LLC
Kelly	Wiles	RGA Inc. ( <i>Richard Grubb &amp; Associates, Inc.</i> )
Matt	Witkowski, P.E.	Hardesty & Hanover, LLC

## PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status, provide an update of the proposed Route 537 corridor roadway improvements and cultural resources studies, and to obtain local community input on the preliminary engineering design improvements. (See attached Agenda)

## MEETING SUMMARY

1. After introductions, Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator, reviewed the agenda and the updated handouts, as distributed in green LPE Phase Project Portfolios: Project Team List, Stakeholders List, Local Project Delivery Process Chart, and Project Information Sheet.
2. Daria Jakimowska, Monmouth County Project Manager, provided the project overview and update. She noted that the County has been working on roadway improvements to the Route 537 corridor in coordination with Freehold Township Local Officials and the cooperating agencies to secure Federal funding needed to assist in the extensive corridor improvements needed. The project has been approved with funding to move forward with the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) from Local Concept Development (LCD) Study to the Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) phase.

- (a) This is one of the busiest corridors in the County and spot fixes don't do enough; extensive improvements are needed to address congestion and traffic safety along this section of Route 537.
  - (b) The LCD Study was completed and now the LPE phase involves defining the actual footprint of the roadway improvements through engineering and environmental studies.
3. Michael Swietanski, H&H Project Manager, presented the project location, goals and process with Power Point presentation slides. Mike provided information through plan drawings for the improvements beginning at Sentinel Road and ending west of the Route 9 Interchange. The LPE design improvements are based upon updated traffic volumes and the Phase I development of the Belle Meade track. The following outlines questions or comments raised by attendees:
- (a) Review bus turn out areas with NJ Transit.
  - (b) Castranova Way is a two lane roadway that will be right in and right out only as a safety concern and attendees asked to re-examine.
4. Brian Medino, H&H Roadway Engineer, provided information on the right-of-way requirements and permits. The following comments by the stakeholders were noted:
- (a) At CentraState Hospital, there is only one exit onto Route 537 westbound especially with all the visitors, employees and hospital deliveries – need to look at traffic flow in and out of the hospital.
  - (b) The Freehold Township Clifton T. Barkalow Middle School entrance and exit areas should be examined near the intersection to see if more storage capacity of the turning lanes can be improved at the intersection.
  - (c) Recent new property owners along Route 537 will be added to the project community stakeholders list and information on the prior Local Concept Development Study phase is on the Monmouth County project web site.
  - (d) Concern of increase in traffic at Wells Fargo Bank driveway on Iron Bridge Road since the driveway on Route 537 will be changed to right in and right out only.
5. Paul McEachen, RGA, Inc. Senior Archeologist, noted that documentation and cultural resources studies are an important part of this phase. There are a number of properties within the corridor that may be on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- (a) There are seven archeological sites, six of which are on north side of the Route 537 and one on the south side. Ground survey and metal detectors were used but nothing revolutionary was found. Primarily household artifacts of mid-19th century to 20th century, plates, some animal remains were found.
  - (b) Coordination with State and Federal regulatory agencies is on-going during this phase and will continue through design and construction phases.
6. Martine Culbertson asked attendees to move to the discussion tables and display boards they were most interested in reviewing in more detail. Blank white index cards were available at the tables to provide comments and questions if interested. Discussions occurred for an estimated forty minute period. Martine then asked each

table to summarize and share the topics discussed with the full room of attendees. The following comments were noted:

- (a) Additional signage.
- (b) Concern about patrons trying to access businesses along Route 537 between Stillwells Corner Road and Castranova Way intersections because of limited access due to restricted left turns and a concrete island in the median.
- (c) Homeowners requested additional information about the Right-of-Way Process for the public meeting.
- (d) Residential properties along Route 537 (#381, 387, 391 and 395 West Main Street) suggested access road be built behind their properties so their homes can remain. Could use of existing school driveway/roadway behind their properties be used by the public?
- (e) Route 537 roadway at the bridge over Route 33 will be wider to continue two lanes westbound.
- (f) Concern about only single access to Route 537 westbound for CentraState Hospital.
- (g) Safety issue regarding location of Professional Plaza driveway being close to Victoria Drive. Issues with vehicles turning left out of Victoria Drive. Can the driveways be connected internally?
- (h) School Administration concerned about restricting Route 537 westbound left turns onto Schlechtweg Way and into their parking lot.
- (i) FTHPC (Freehold Township Historic Preservation Commission) would like to see results of cultural resources effort. They asked if the artifacts are preserved after the testing and if they could collect some to be placed on display. They requested the impact to the school house on Wemrock Road be kept to a minimum.
- (j) Will the Family Dentistry's driveway have the same access conditions as existing?
- (k) Requested additional signage along Route 537 westbound to direct traffic to Walmart via the use of Castranova Way.
- (l) Applegate Farms owner concerned about Route 537 westbound traffic not being able to make lefts into his business. Where can they make a U-Turn?
- (m) Why are left turns not permitted onto Walmart Drive from 537 westbound?

7. Martine noted that the project team will review the items discussed during the group break-out session.

(a) The next outreach meeting will be a Public Information Center (PIC) to be held in the Fall 2017. The date, time and location will be determined and a meeting notice will be distributed a minimum of two weeks in advance.

(b) She asked attendees to share any additional thoughts about the meeting. The following input/feedback was noted:

- Township concurred with the County that the design and maintenance of separate water basins was best and not to impact or use existing basins since they are privately owned and maintained.
- Traffic – eliminate confusion and voice concerns now – good to share information.
- Maintain access to driveways throughout the corridor at all times.
- Construct the intersections in phases/stages.

- There are concerns about maintaining full access for Mount's Corner and Raintree shopping centers during construction.
  - Will look at level of service of traffic when developing traffic staging during construction so to take care not to work on two approaches if possible.
8. In closing, Daria Jakimowska noted that a meeting summary report will be provided and the County has a set of the draft proposed plans at the County Engineering Office for anyone who may wish to review them and for those unable to make today's meeting. The plans are a work in progress draft and would not be posted to the project web site until after the public meeting where the general public will also have an opportunity to review and provide input.
  9. Any questions, please contact Daria Jakimowska, Monmouth County Project Manager, or Michael Swietanski, Hardesty & Hanover Project Manager. Contact information is on the Project Team List distributed with the Project Portfolio. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

## **KEY ACTION ITEMS**

1. Project Team will continue traffic analysis, environmental and cultural resources studies and examine action items noted during discussion.
2. Attendees to provide information on any changes in the corridor and stakeholders which the County and Project Team should be aware of; provide any comments and changes in their contact information to the Project Team; and are welcome to attend future public meeting and provide comments.
3. Martine Culbertson will provide meeting summary, update the Community Stakeholders List, and provide meeting notification to local officials and community stakeholders of the Community Stakeholders Meeting and future public information center (PIC) meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

### **Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting**

Date: Fall 2017 (*to be determined*)

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (*to be determined*)

Location: Freehold Township Municipal Building, Room 114 (*to be determined*)  
One Municipal Plaza, Freehold, 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.

Route 537 LPE Project Team





## 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

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### Community Stakeholders Meeting No. 1

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Freehold Township Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza, Freehold, NJ - Room 114, 2:00 - 4:00  
p.m.

### AGENDA

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the project team, present the project status, provide an update of the proposed Route 537 corridor roadway improvements and cultural resource studies, and to obtain local community input on the preliminary engineering design improvements.

#### I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Project Overview and Background
- Local Preliminary Delivery Process - LCD Study completed

#### II. ROUTE 537 CORRIDOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS - LPE PHASE

- Preliminary Engineering Design Plans
- Environmental/Cultural Resources Studies
- Community Involvement Update

#### III. DISCUSSION

- Community Input - *Proposed Improvements*
- *Group Discussion - Summary Results*

#### IV. NEXT STEPS

- Public Information Center (PIC) Meeting – Spring/Summer 2017
- Feedback and Closing Comments

