



MONMOUTH COUNTY

Local Concept Development Study for Monmouth County Route 537 Borough of Freehold and Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

PROJECT INFORMATION

Monmouth County is conducting a study for operational and safety improvements to Monmouth County Route 537. The project study area includes a 2.8 mile section (MP 48.85 to MP 51.65) from a point just west of Gravel Hill Road in Freehold Township, to a point just east of New Jersey Route 33 Business in Freehold Borough. CR 537 is a major east-west transportation corridor serving regional travel needs between Burlington, Ocean, and Monmouth Counties. The roadway serves as a connector between several regional routes, namely U.S. Route 9, Route 33 Freeway, Route 33 Business, and Routes 34, 79, and I-195. The corridor has several substandard design elements, traffic congestion issues, and traffic movement capacity issues for which conceptual solutions will be developed to improve safety and reduce congestion while still taking into account practical measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts to the built and natural environment.

The Project Background

The Monmouth County Route 537 corridor has traffic operational deficiencies, safety deficiencies, and contains numerous substandard design elements, based on the roadway classification and required design speed as per AASHTO and MUTCD design guidelines including:

- Lack of shoulders along the entire length.
- Substandard auxiliary lane widths along exterior lanes.
- Substandard vertical stopping sight distance at two locations.
- Few auxiliary lanes, deceleration lanes or shoulders for turning movements at intersections as well as into various business/shopping complexes.
- Substandard roadway and lane widths over the Route 33 Freeway.
- Substandard lane drops along the westbound approach to the Route 33 Freeway.

Additionally, much of the corridor is not bicycle or pedestrian compatible. There are also numerous substandard design elements at the CR 537 interchange with US Route 9; which is included within the project study limits.



The Proposed Study

The current phase of this project is Concept Development (CD). During this phase a well-defined and well-justified Purpose and Need Statement will be developed focusing on the need to improve safety and operational improvements to CR 537. CD Phase elements also include: data collection; coordination with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, local stakeholders, and permitting agencies; the development of a reasonable number of sensible and practical conceptual alternatives; the development of a Preliminary Preferred Alternative, and to investigate all aspects of the project. These aspects will include environmental, right of way, access, utilities, design, community involvement, constructability, and cost.

The primary tasks of stakeholders are to assist in the development of the Project Purpose and Need Statement, assist in the development of conceptual alternatives, identify possible fatal flaws, and to assist in the selection of the Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) based on the Project Purpose and Need.

Concept Development Project Schedule (Major Milestones)

Develop Project Purpose and Need Statement	June 2012
Development of Conceptual Alternatives	September 2012
Selection of Preliminary Preferred Alternative	December 2012
Submission of Draft Concept Development Report	March 2013
Completion of Concept Development Phase	April 2013

Anticipated Community Involvement Schedule

Public Information Center for Purpose and Need Statement	April 2012
Obtain Stakeholder Input for Developed Alternatives	August 2012
Local Officials Meeting	September 2012
Public Information Center	November 2012
Local Officials Meeting	April 2013

Resolutions of Support for the Preliminary Preferred Alternative will be requested from both the Borough of Freehold and the Township of Freehold prior to the completion of the Concept Development Report.

Contact Information

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