



MONMOUTH COUNTY

Local Concept Development Study: Project Limits Modification Monmouth County Route 537, West of Iron Bridge Road to West of NJ Route 9 Interchange Township of Freehold, Monmouth County, NJ

PROJECT INFORMATION UPDATE

Monmouth County has conducted a study for operational and safety improvements to Monmouth County Route 537. The project study area has been modified to be from a point west of Iron Bridge Road (MP 48.85) in Freehold Township to a point west of New Jersey Route 9 Interchange (MP 51.30) at the municipal border.

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, 33 Freeway, 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 geometry 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; and
- 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 located within the project study limits.

The Completed Study:

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

The primary tasks of stakeholders were to assist in the development of the Project Purpose and Need Statement, assist in the development of conceptual alternatives, identify possible fatal flaws, and 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	August 2012
Selection of Preliminary Preferred Alternative	February 2013
Submission of Draft Concept Development Report	March 2013
Completion of Concept Development Phase	December 2013

Community Involvement Schedule

Local Officials Meetings	January 20, 2011
Community Stakeholders Mtg No. 1 for Purpose and Need Statement (P&N) and Public Information Center for P&N	March 20, 2012 April 24, 2012
Obtain Input for Developed Alternatives - Community Stakeholders Mtg No. 2	December 17, 2012
Local Officials Meeting	February 22, 2013
Public Information Center for PPA	February 26, 2013
Public Information Center for Project Limits Modification	October 30, 2013

Resolutions of Support for the Preliminary Preferred Alternative were requested from both the Borough of Freehold and the Township of Freehold prior to the completion of the Concept Development Report. A Resolution of Support was received from the Township of Freehold on April 9, 2013.

Contact Information

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